

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Amid Buddhist customs:

Thai cremations offer witness opportunity

By Maxine Stewart

Recently, Bob and I were invited to the cremation of the wife of a former governor of Chacheungsao Province, Thailand. Upon the death of a Thai Buddhist, the first ceremony is the bathing rite. This is a ceremony in which the relatives and close friends of the deceased are involved in a merit-making and purification rite.

A coin or small piece of jewelry is put in the mouth of the deceased. This is to prove a person of wealth cannot take even a simple coin with him when death comes.

The body is wrapped in white cloth and laid in a coffin. A piece of white yarn is extended from the body wrapping to the outside of the coffin before the coffin is sealed. (This is to give the deceased contact with the monks while they are chanting.) The coffin is surrounded with floral arrangements, candles and incense, and a photograph of the deceased is placed at the end of the coffin. The public ceremonies then begin.

A ceremony is held each evening for seven consecutive days. Buddhist monks are invited to chant various stanzas.

There are NO cremations on Friday. Friday, in the Thai language, is WANSUK. WAN means day and SUK means happiness. No cremations on that day!



A crematorium at a Buddhist temple in Thailand. (Photos by Maxine Stewart)

But when there is a cremation, what to wear! Black and white are the most acceptable.

Arrangements

There are usually several things

to do before the cremation: arrangements with the undertaker; reserving the temple — the day, time, and location, (there are 300 temples in Bangkok); sending out invitations; getting refreshments of tea, betel nut, cigarettes, usually alcoholic beverages; three sets of chanting offerings for the monks (robes and monetary gifts); sweets for the monks; joss-sticks; candles; fresh floral arrangements around the coffin; the funeral procession; a Thai orchestra and Thai classical dancers to be engaged to perform during the merit-making and the cremation; selecting someone to be in charge at the temple and someone to set the house back in order after the coffin has been removed; black and white cloth must be distributed to all the servants to be worn at the cremation; food and drink provided for all those who lend a hand. At the foot of the steps of the crematorium, someone must be stationed to distribute candles and joss-sticks to those who have not brought their own.

It is believed that cremating puts an end to all the worries and cares of the family who otherwise has to spend a great deal of time and money on the care of the remains.

One of the basic teachings of Buddhism is that all existence is suffering — in birth, daily life, old age, and death. This belief only gives people suffering to look forward to in what they believe to be their next existence. Thus the entertainment at cremations — music, Thai classical dancing, movies, alcohol — seems to help in counteracting some of the feeling of hopelessness.

Some 40 years ago or so, the day after a cremation, there was a private ceremony for the family in which the bones, and sometimes the ashes, of the deceased were collected and kept in an urn for the family. (The coin or jewelry that was placed in the mouth of the deceased was also retrieved at that time.) Now with more modern equipment at the crematoriums, the family does not have to wait as long. Some families scatter the ashes in a stream, river, or even the ocean. Some leave the ashes for the temple to take care of.



Thai classical dancers are often hired for entertainment at cremations.

Thai Christian Funerals

A Thai Christian funeral is one of the few times that non-Christian family members and friends of the deceased (or family) will come to church. They have no relationship to the church and know very little (if anything) about Christianity. This is a good opportunity to share with them the Christian faith and hope. They can make a comparison between the Christian and non-Christian funerals.

Thai Christian funerals are usually held three to five nights. These services are evangelistic. The missionaries and Thai pastors have the opportunity to explain about the death of a Christian and our hope as Christians in the face of, and after, death. Our hope is based on the God who created us, who in love offered us redemption

through his Son, and who has prepared a place for us after death. We try to communicate our assurance of security in God's care even after we die.

Between Christian funerals and Christian weddings, which are also a time of evangelism in Thailand, a lot of the people living in Chacheungsao have heard the gospel preached. From Chacheungsao Baptist Church we have buried 19 members of the congregation. Bob has also performed 15 weddings locally.

As God's Word is shared, we realize we are up against Thai tradition. There is no merit-making in a Christian funeral. Jesus IS our merit. He is all that we need.

Stewart and her husband Bob are Southern Baptist missionaries in Chacheungsao, Thailand.



The deceased lying in state at WAT Jang (temple) in Bangkok, Thailand. Note the photo of the deceased at the end of the coffin, left. Note also the colored (Christmas) lights strung over the coffin.



A Thai orchestra plays at a cremation at WAT Jang (temple) in Bangkok, Thailand.

SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson

The caution flag is flying

The writer is neither a seer or a dresser of sycamore trees, however there are clouds on the horizon which indicate abiding storms for our churches and Convention. Committees will meet, resolutions will be passed, and tears shed over the issue we face.

(1) There is the anti-religion kick. The flaws of TV ministries open to the public, provided enough ammunition to bash all religions. The encroachment of the federal government, including the IRS, will concern us for decades to come. Courageous men of integrity will be needed in Washington.

(2) Another red flag is the number of committees going into "executive session" from which visitors and the press are excluded. There are times in discussing personnel matters when this must be done and we understand this. However, more and more Baptist work is being done behind closed doors. "Tell the truth and trust the people" could well be our best guide.

(3) There is concern over the various "watchdog" committees to watch over us and provide various rules, regulations, and red tape for

SBC meetings.

(4) The Golden Parachute theory is coming under fire. Excessive retirement packages for well-paid executives is hardly compatible with the servant philosophy.

(5) Growing attempts by various boards, trustees, and committees to dabble into the day by day administration of the agencies they represent are causing grave concern.

(6) The manner of nomination and election of selected individuals based on the person who nominates rather than on the qualifications of the nominees is disturbing.

(7) Sexuality issues we will face in our churches and institutions are a major concern. M. B. Fletcher of Carson-Newman College declares that "teenage sex has reached epidemic proportions" and "the church must take a more active role." Add AIDS and homosexuality to this and you have a typhoon brewing. Meanwhile, two North Carolina churches maintain they are facing homosexual issues that other churches will have to face soon. Thankfully, Southern Baptists have spoken loud and clear on the homosexual issue and this stance is not likely

to change.

(8) Is there a growing attempt to downgrade the Woman's Missionary Union or to get the WMU to become an agency rather than auxiliary of the SBC? Apparently this is no widespread movement yet, but efforts are being voiced.

(9) The rush is on by fellowships and other entities to assist high-profile individuals and institutions which have been defunded, altered, or cancelled by Convention action. This rush has the possibility of increased proliferation with costly and divisive results.

(10) The art of keeping missionaries, administrators, and seminary faculty members in fretful uncertainty is being shaped as a weapon of discipline. It has seldom been effective, however, and will eventually weaken the entire Convention structure.

These issues and more will hound us in the nineties. Would we could come together, prayerfully consider them, searching for the mind of Christ, and continue the work of the kingdom? "Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another" (Rom. 14:19).

Major league pitcher Sampen sees more to life than pro baseball

HAVANA, Ill. (BP)—Bill Sampen laughed and remarked to a teammate, "This is awesome," as he ran onto the field at St. Louis' Busch Stadium in the spring of 1990.

Thousands of people watched Sampen that day. It was his major league debut as a pitcher.

His wife, Amy, sat in the stands. "I just sat up there and cried," she said. To see her husband running onto the field in a major league uniform was "like a dream really coming true."

Bill and Amy Sampen are living a life lots of people dream about. Bill is a pitcher with the Montreal Expos and Amy usually is close by cheering him on.

But there is more to Bill and Amy than baseball. Both are Christians seeking to live for Christ in a high-profile world and both are Southern Baptists, members of Mt. Zion Church near Kilbourne, Ill.

"The feeling I got when I made

my debut, when I got my first win, when I got my first save, and each win after that, ... it disappeared after the game," Sampen said.

But his salvation through Christ is different, the pitcher said. "That's the only thing I have that will last."

He has spent a good portion of the off-season telling others about his faith in Christ.

Now he has two seasons behind him, primarily as a reliever. His record: 21 wins, 12 losses. ERA: 3.5. Strikeouts: 121.

"Professional athletics probably has the most conducive hours to do all the things you shouldn't do and the most opportunities," Sampen said. "We're on the road for, normally, around a week. You're in big cities. There's all kinds of things to do and most of them aren't very positive."

The players' work hours run from the afternoon until about 11 p.m., "then you're back to the

hotel," Sampen continued. "Guys, if they want to stay out all night, they can sleep late the next day. Most of them are making big money or at the very worst good money ... The bars are all over the place. There are women around ... Drugs are easily accessible and they have the money for it. You name it and it's there."

Some ballplayers are noted for living on the wild side during road trips.

But Sampen and some other Christian ballplayers with the Expos have an alternative after games. "That's where the fellowship of Christian players on our team plays a large role," Sampen said. "You're not ready to go to sleep," so several of them "have our own fun."

Also, the group normally meets for a Bible study in the morning.

"We try to spend as much time together as we can," Sampen added. "We're close, a pretty solid group."

"WHERE DO YOU STAND ON THE BAPTIST CONTROVERSY? YOU TELL US AND THEN WE'LL TELL YOU IF YOU'RE RIGHT."



A bargain in hard times

Recently several churches cancelled the Every Family Plan for receiving the Baptist Record. There are 136,111 Baptist families in Mississippi, and over 100,000 of them receive the Baptist Record. Those receiving the BR were able to read about:

- Fire safety in local churches
- Zimbabwe Partnership off and running
- Billy Graham's most intense year
- Russian exchange students in Mississippi
- All sides of the SBC controversy
- Crisis pregnancy center
- People on the move — staff and church news in Mississippi
- Capsules of national and international news
- Stewardship, evangelism, and Sunday School work
- Associational missions and much, much more.

Our people need to be informed about world news, SBC events, news of our colleges and seminaries, plus our global mission program and the work of the Cooperative Program. No paper, religious or otherwise, covers Mississippi like the Baptist Record. Every family in your church can get it for \$5.40 per year or 12 cents per copy — less than it costs you to mail a letter. Individual subscriptions are slightly higher. Call 968-3800 for the best bargain for your church. —GH

Annuity Board votes increase

DALLAS (BP)—Trustees of the Annuity Board of the Southern Baptist Convention voted a 5% increase in benefits for 22,000 annuitants effective July 1, 1992. Both Plan A and defined contribution plan participants will receive the raise. Annuitants will see the increase in checks at the end of July.

William A. Willis of Little Rock, Ark., was elected chairman of the board, succeeding B. J. Martin of Pasadena, Texas, who served four one-year terms. S. A. Adkins of Forest, Miss., was elected vice chairman.

The trustee insurance committee reported improvement in the finan-

cial condition of the church comprehensive medical plan — including a less-than-predicted rate increase July 1. Trustees also heard about lower cost options planned for Jan. 1, 1993. The group comprehensive medical plan, however, did not fare as well in 1991. Its \$2.4 million loss resulted in large increases for groups with bad claims experience.

Doug Day, vice president for the property and casualty department, reported that the gross premium of about \$1 million written in the first two months of 1992 exceeded all of 1991, under its new carrier, Preferred Risk Mutual Insurance Company.

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Woman's Missionary Union

115th annual meeting

March 16-17, 1992 — First Church, Clinton

Theme: Called and Accountable

MONDAY AFTERNOON: "From Sea To Shining Sea"

1:15-2:00 Tours of Disaster Relief Van
 1:30 Pre-session Music
 2:00 Sing Praise Unto Our God Led by Russell and Melinda Kyzar and Mary Simmons
 Call to Order Joan Tyler
 Welcome and Prayer Bill Baker
 BIBLE STUDY Carolyn Miller

CALLED — to Home Missions
 Panel — Richard Brogan; Cherry Blackwell; J. C. Prather; Dottie Williamson; and Eddie Jones.
 Moderated by Betty Dobbs

ACCOUNTABLE — in Home Missions Jane Barnes
 Prayer Charlotte Causey

4:30-6:00 Supper served from Disaster Van (reservations required)

MONDAY EVENING: "Missions In The Magnolia State"

6:30 Pre-session Music
 7:00 SING PRAISE UNTO OUR GOD
 Prayer Vicki McCall
 BIBLE STUDY Carolyn Miller

CALLED — to State Missions
 Panel: Louis Lamar; W. R. Storie; Wendy Hatcher; and Charles Jones. Moderated by Betty Dobbs

Offertory Hymn
 Offertory Prayer Frances Downs
 ACCOUNTABLE ... to Serve Where We Are Joyce Mitchell
 Prayer Kay Hodge

Reception following

TUESDAY MORNING: "A Family Affair"

9:00 Pre-session Music
 9:30 Sing Praise Unto Our God
 Prayer Betty Barber
 BIBLE STUDY Carolyn Miller
 Recognition of Parents of Missionaries Betty Dobbs
 Business Session
 Offertory Hymn
 Offertory Prayer Leta Carter

CALLED — to Family Missions
 Panel: Myrtis Owens; Keith and Penny Stamps; Russell and Melinda Kyzar.
 Moderated by Ashley McCaleb

ACCOUNTABLE ... in Family Missions Lois Henderson
 Prayer Mary Lee Askew

TUESDAY AFTERNOON: "Into All The World"

1:00 Pre-session Music
 1:30 Sing Praise Unto Our God
 Prayer Marty Turner
 BIBLE STUDY Carolyn Miller

CALLED — to Foreign Missions
 Panel: Laura Dunaway; Betty Merritt; Mark and Cecile Alexander; Rowland Hall. Moderated by Jan Cossitt

ACCOUNTABLE — to Foreign Missions Dewey Merritt
 WHERE WE ARE IN MISSISSIPPI WMU Marjean Patterson
 CALLED AND ACCOUNTABLE ...
 to Go Forward Myrtice Owens
 Prayer Syble Myers

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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Committee scrutinizes WMU relationship to convention

By Bob Allen & Robert Dilday

NASHVILLE (ABP) — The 104-year-old relationship between the Southern Baptist Convention and its auxiliary, the Woman's Missionary Union, has come under scrutiny of the SBC Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee, meeting Feb. 17-19 in Nashville, considered a motion to invite the WMU to become an agency of the convention.

The WMU — unlike SBC boards, institutions, and commissions, which are overseen by trustees elected by the convention — has been self-governing since its organization in 1888 as a women's auxiliary to promote missions in Southern Baptist churches. WMU receives no funds through the Cooperative Program, the convention's unified budget and primary means of support for SBC agencies. The motion, made during the meeting's closing session by Gibbie McMillan, a pastor from Baton Rouge, La., was referred to the Executive Committee's administrative subcommittee.

It evolved from suspicion expressed by Executive Committee members that WMU is posturing itself to extend its allegiance beyond the SBC to include the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship. The Fellowship is an alliance of moderate-conservative Southern Baptists that promotes budget options for churches waning in their enthusiasm for traditional channels of support, now administered by fundamental-conservatives.

WMU representatives disputed the perception. Whatever affinity individual members of their executive board might express for the Fellowship, the WMU as an organization has endorsed only SBC missions efforts, they contended.

The occasion for the sharp exchange was discussion of a revised WMU program statement submitted for Executive Committee approval. Program statements define and limit the assignments of various agencies of the SBC. Though not required to do

so, WMU has sought SBC adoption of program statements since the 1960s, both as a courtesy and to ensure WMU's style is consistent with similar documents for other denominational entities.

The document, last revised in 1967, underwent substantial changes in format and language. It sailed through workgroup and subcommittee discussions before being withdrawn from a series of administrative subcommittee proposals during a plenary session.

The subcommittee huddled for a called session to reconsider the document. Committee members pointed out a specific reference to promoting missions in "churches of the Southern Baptist Convention" in the 1967 document's purpose statement was missing in the new statement's more general language, "to assist churches in developing and implementing a comprehensive strategy of missions in order that a church can fulfill its

(See WMU on page 8)

Board approves Price for Garaywa post

By Tim Nicholas

The Executive Committee of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board approved hiring of Helen Price as part time summer GA camp program director at Camp Garaywa and voted a final draft of a sick leave policy.

Price, a part time school counselor for North Pike Public Schools in Summit, will plan GA camp programs and supervise the summer staff. She will be paid from State Mission Offering funds.

A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Mrs. Price

supervised caseloads for the Southwest Mississippi Child Protection, Inc., Summit, Jan.-Oct. 1991. Earlier she was director and a counselor at the Christian Counseling Center in McComb, a therapist at Southwest Mississippi Mental Health, McComb; and was from 1985-89 minister of youth and activities at Shady Grove Church, Bogie Chitto. The former Helen Hoggatt, she is married to Jackie Price. They have two children.

In other business the committee approved spending up to \$5,000 for preliminary planning for a retirement community in cooperation with the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center. And they authorized a gift of \$2,000 to New Orleans Seminary for help with training or ministerial students at

Clarke College.

And the committee approved several replacements of board members. Albert H. McMullen of Stonewall replaces Rex Yancey for Clarke Association; Jack Wilkes of Tunica replaces Dennis Trull for North Delta Association; George Berger of Pascagoula replaces W. W. Walley as an at-large member; Eugene Tennyson of Booneville replaces Charles McAnally; and Jerry Lundy of Louisville replaces Kent Cochran for Winston Association.

The committee approved the spending of up to \$16,000 to buy a used van for the board and approved up to \$6,934 to replace the roof of the Camp Center Building at Central Hills Baptist Retreat.

Williams accepts Texas post

Sunday School Department Consultant Keith Williams has accepted a call to become Median/Senior Adult

Consultant for the Sunday School/Discipleship Training Division of the Baptist General Convention of Texas. He will begin his work there April 1.

In accepting Williams' resignation, Sunday School Department Director Keith Wilkinson expressed Mississippi's loss of "the services of a valuable consultant. Keith Williams has been an effective communicator of Adult Sunday School. Keith has unique people skills and has been an effective conference leader both in Mississippi and in various national training events. We will miss his services. However, we wish him well in this new challenge and opportunity."

Williams came to the Sunday School Department in December 1983 from Jackson, Tenn. where he serv-

ed as minister of education. A native of DuQuoin, Ill., he and his wife Carol have one daughter Allison who is completing the sixth grade. Carol teaches kindergarten at First Church, Clinton, where the Williamses are members.

Williams, a graduate of Union University and Southwestern Seminary, has served churches in Texas, Tennessee, and Mississippi. He has served as interim minister of education at Ridgecrest, Madison; Park Place, Brandon; Daniel Memorial, Jackson; Liberty, Flowood; FBC, Brandon; Woodville Heights, Jackson; and Bowmar Avenue, Vicksburg. Williams also recently served as guest lecturer in adult education at Golden Gate Seminary, Mill Valley, Calif. "I'm thankful that Mississippi Baptists have given me these eight years of growth and ministry," said Williams.

Williams will complete his Mississippi service by coordinating three area Better Bible Teaching Conferences: March 6-7, FBC, Oxford; March 20-21, FBC, Jackson; March 27-28, FBC, Gulfport.



Price

White House pulls support of church reports

By Tom Strode

WASHINGTON (BP) — The White House has withdrawn support for a proposal requiring churches to file reports with the Internal Revenue Service on contributors giving more than \$500 annually, Vice President Dan Quayle said.

Quayle, appearing on NBC's "Meet the Press" Feb. 23, called the reporting requirement a "nonsense regulation" neither President George Bush nor he was aware was in the budget.

"I can assure you that I didn't know

it was in (the budget), the president didn't know it was in there and, unfortunately, sometimes these things get in there, and when it's brought up to us and brought to our attention, we do what is right," Quayle said. "And what is right is to say that that piece of legislation is not going to have our support."

"Now, Congress can go ahead and pass it if they want to, but it's not going to have our support."

The administration is "backing off"

the measure, a White House source confirmed Feb. 24.

It appears unlikely the proposal will go anywhere in Congress. On Feb. 20, the Democrats, who control Congress, introduced an alternative tax package without the reporting requirement. President Bush's tax package, which includes the requirement, was reported to the House of Representatives without recommendation by

(See WHITE HOUSE on page 9)

Religious educators hear growth survey results

By Tim Nicholas

A speaker at the Mississippi Baptist Religious Education Association Convention meeting in Biloxi told of characteristics of growing churches in the Southern Baptist Convention and revealed results of a survey of churches in Mississippi which are growing.

Bill Gambrell, minister of education/pastoral care at First Church, Jackson, surveyed 223 individuals in 175 churches which had experienced growth in Sunday School enrollment or average attendance in the past five years.

A total of 85 pastors, 20 ministers of education, and 14 Sunday School directors responded.

The top five factors contributing to growth of Mississippi churches, according to the respondents, were warm fellowship, pastoral leadership, prayer, vision shared by pastor and people, and the fifth was a tie: members inviting friends and new Sunday School units.

The five factors of lowest value, according to respondents, were, from lowest, relocation, money, use of mass media, weekly workers' meeting, and guest reception center.

Generally, national research on growing churches, according to Gambrell, includes "actively and consistently including prayer in events and an openness to the work of the Holy Spirit."

He said a growing church "constantly encourages members to invite their friends, help friends have a good experience and follow up to actually share how the friends can give his or her life to Christ.

Other factors include offering multiple options in programs and ministries, developing attitudes of living in the present and the future, not the past, offering quality preschool, children's, and youth ministries, developing networks of small groups (which, Gambrell said, is the Sunday School), insisting on excellence and quality in worship and Bible study, employing volunteers in areas in which they are gifted, exhibiting a "people first" attitude, and using

mass media to inform not persuade.

Another speaker at the MBREA convention which attracted about 75 ministers of education and early childhood ministry church staffers, was Charles Lowry, head of the Center of Evangelism and Church Growth at New Orleans Seminary.

Lowry offered the group factors in breaking out of plateaued churches. He said that "fresh vision" leads his list. He said that any growth planning needs to be placed on paper. "Set challenging, but attainable goals," he said.

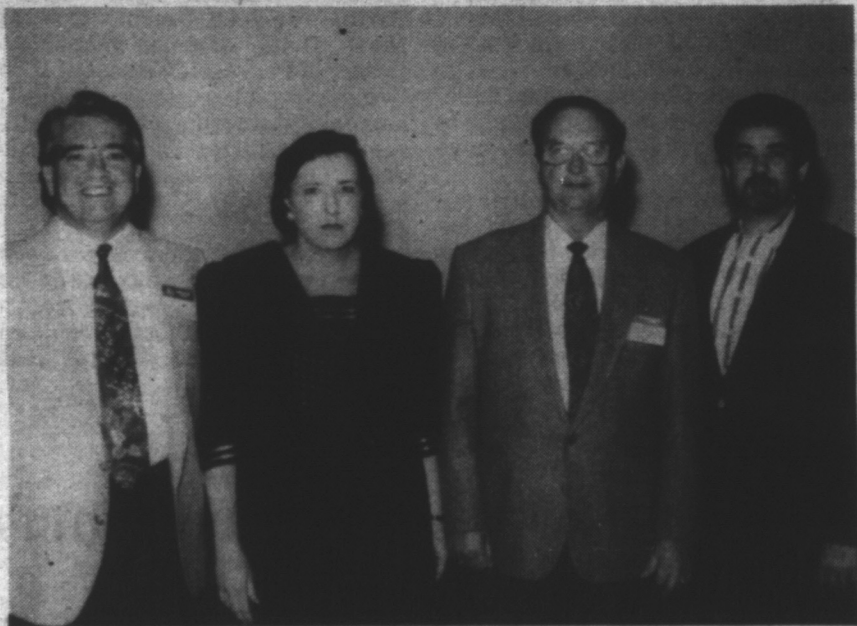
Breaking out of a plateau involves use of "multiple evangelism approaches," said Lowry. He said a church where he served as interim had a program called "Beginning the Year with the Lord." The pastor visited each class to talk about their individual relationship with the Lord.

He said beginning new classes is one way to break out. Other methods include spending time dreaming about the future — asking what do we need to grow? and recommitting to the class organizational structure.

Lowry said the true job of a class group leader is to contact every member every week, not just the absentees. He said that each conversation could include normal chatting, the naming of something good that happened in church, Sunday School, or the caller's life, and asking if there was anything the caller could pray with the member about. "You can do that every week and it doesn't get old," said Lowry.

The MBREA made plans to meet in 1992 at the Center for Evangelism and Church Growth at New Orleans Seminary, on Feb. 18-20.

New officers of the group include Joe Chapman, president, minister of education at Ridgecrest Church, Madison; Randy Riley, president-elect, minister of education at First Church, Gulfport; Nancy Bullock, vice president, director of pre-school ministries at Parkway Church, Jackson; and Wayne Carter, secretary-treasurer, minister of education at First Church, Saltillo.



New officers of MBREA are, from left, Joe Chapman, president, minister of education at Ridgecrest Church, Madison; Randy Riley, president-elect, minister of education at First Church, Gulfport; Nancy Bullock, vice president, director of pre-school ministries at Parkway Church, Jackson; and Wayne Carter, secretary-treasurer, minister of education at First Church, Saltillo.

KOREA, SOUTH (EASTERN ASIA): Wallace Memorial Hospital is located in Pusan. The Iranian government has given it permission to begin operating a base hospital in the Kurdish area of Iran. The hospital has plans to rotate an eight-member Christian medical team in and out of Iran every three months. Pray for the Lord to use this ministry in a mighty way.



Tommy Kennedy, left, demonstrates tiller to Missionary Chris Ingram.

Agri-Mission Fellowship gives tiller to missionary, for Uruguay use

Recently the Mississippi Agri-Mission Fellowship presented a Troy-Bilt tiller to Chris Ingram, missionary to Uruguay. Tommy Kennedy of Brandon, along with Jim Didlake of the Brotherhood Department, carried the tiller to Tennessee where it was given to Chris.

Chris had been working with the fellowship for approximately two years to determine the type tiller needed and how to get it into the country. He plans to use it to till the small garden plots of families he works with

as an agricultural missionary. He said this would speed up the work that is presently being done on the small plots with a horse and plow.

The Mississippi Agri-Mission fellowship is one of several mission fellowships related to the Brotherhood Department that reach out to specialize mission endeavors. Their purpose is to foster and promote Christian service by members of the agricultural business profession in support of both foreign and home mission work.

Ellis becomes lay renewal coordinator for MBCB

Sidney Ellis has become volunteer coordinator for lay renewal at the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.



Ellis, who retired last year after 27 years as director of business affairs for the Greenville school system, will simply continue what he has done in his spare time for years. Ellis estimates he participated in between 150 and 200 renewal weekends in the past 18 years. After participating in a couple of renewal weekends as a team member, Doyle Cummings of Second Church, Indianola, asked Ellis to coordinate one. When Ellis hesitated, Cummings asked, "Would you let the Lord do it

through you?" Ellis prayed about it and led his first one in April of 1974. Since then he has been a renewal associate with the Home Mission Board.

In his new volunteer post, Ellis will continue to coordinate renewal weekends and have the time to work with other coordinators, tell more churches about the renewal journey.

Ellis describes renewal as "a journey into lifestyle evangelism and ministry — it's really the Great Commission," says Ellis, whose wife Mary Lou serves on renewal teams with him.

Although the process is generally known as lay renewal, the role of the pastor is strategic, says Ellis. His former pastor, Howard Taylor, who introduced Ellis to renewal, would write prayergrams to Ellis' teams with a word of inspiration every weekend they went out.

Terminations: not all due to "mean deacons"

By Tim Nicholas

With upwards of 1,600 Southern Baptist ministers being forced terminated annually, ministers need to increase their awareness of the dynamics of human relationships, according to Julius Thompson.

Thompson, director of the Church Administration/Pastoral Ministries Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, spoke to the pastors' conference at Jackson County recently, offering advice concerning ministerial ethics and etiquette.

Thompson said the terminations "are not all the result of mean deacons and bad churches." He said often there was "some inappropriate behavior on the part of the ministers."

Thompson pointed to stories in the news of fallen ministers such as Jim-

my Swaggart and Jim Baker. "Skeptics, agnostics, and infidels all assume all ministers conduct themselves like that," said Thompson.

In national surveys, he said, pharmacists are more respected than ministers.

To combat such perceptions "you must build a trust relationship in your church and protect that with your life," said Thompson.

He said the minister's wife has the strongest influence on his life. "You must nurture and keep it strong," he said, adding that some ministers place family time as appointments on their calendars so that they can plan the rest of their weeks around it.

Another way to help ministers is for churches to allow the pastor and his

FMB, HMB will coordinate transnational mission work

By Jim Newton

NASHVILLE (BP) — An agreement to enable the Southern Baptist Foreign and Home Mission boards to cooperate across national and geographic boundaries has been approved by the presidents of the two agencies.

Under the agreement, each of the two mission boards will establish a transnational missions desk with a staff member to coordinate joint missions efforts in both the United States and 122 other countries where Southern Baptists work.

Wally Buckner, assistant executive vice president at the Home Mission Board, and Tom Prevost, director of the international service department at the Foreign Mission Board, have been named to direct the transnational mission desks at their respective agencies.

Larry L. Lewis, president of the Home Mission Board in Atlanta, and R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., said the agreement is an indication the world has become "a global community" with interdependent activities affecting every sector of society.

"The world continues to change radically and rapidly," Parks said.

Lewis said the agreement acknowledges the two agencies "are very different, but share a common concern for reaching the whole world for the Lord Jesus Christ. There is much we can do together in partnership and ways we can work together."

Paul Adkins, vice president for ministry at the Home Mission Board, suggested one way the Home Mission Board could help is through involving 20,000 Baptists in the United States who have been trained through HMB-sponsored literacy programs to teach English as a second language in overseas situations where volunteers are needed.

For example, both mission boards will be involved in cooperative mission efforts during the Olympic games in Barcelona, Spain, in 1994 and in Atlanta in 1996. Home Mission Board staff members Bill Lee, director of special ministries, and Elmer Goble, associate director of short term volunteers, will go to Barcelona later this year to explore ways the HMB can work with the FMB during the Olympics there.

Newton writes for HMB.



Youth Choir Festival held at Brandon

Bob Morrison (pictured) minister of music of First Church, Pensacola, Florida, served as the choral director for the 400 voice combined choir at the Mississippi State Youth Choir Festival held at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, Jan. 31-Feb. 1. Seventeen choirs and ensembles representing 13 Mississippi churches sang for adjudication during the two day event.

State Baptist newspapers could face rate increase

WASHINGTON (ABP) — State Baptist newspapers could face a double-digit rate increase in 1993 if Congress approves President George Bush's budget proposal.

However, a spokesman for the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers said, if history is an indicator, Congress would not enact that proposal.

The budget proposes \$122 million — \$360 million less than the U.S. Postal Service requested — for the non-profit mail subsidy, known as revenue foregone. Revenue foregone reimburses the Postal Service for the non-profit mailers' share of overhead expenses. Non-profit rates reflect only the cost of handling that class of mail.

If the budget proposal is approved, second-class non-profit mailers could see a 17% rate hike and third-class non-profit rates could spiral 31%, estimated Dan Doherty, executive director of the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers. Most state Baptist newspapers are second-class non-profit mailers.

In addition to the reduced funding, the budget also proposes ending or restricting preferred rate status for second-class non-profit mail with more than 10% advertising and for third-class non-profit mail with advertising, advocacy material, or educational data for organizations that are not schools.

Doherty does not think Congress will enact the budget proposal, but if it is approved, some non-profit mailers would lose eligibility entirely and others would have difficulty surviving, he said.

He noted the 1993 budget proposal is "hardly a new scenario" because Bush proposed a similar cut to revenue foregone last year. Congress took steps to prevent a rate increase for most non-profit mail in 1992.

While Doherty is somewhat confident, he said that non-profit mailers must take the proposal seriously because the economy is in bad shape and legislators are having to tighten

1885 — The newly elected convention board chose J. B. Gambrell as executive secretary, a work he combined with that of editor of the Baptist Record. Jackson was made the headquarters for the board.

Cubans ordain three women

MARIANAO, Cuba (ABP) — Cuban Baptists ordained their first three women pastors Jan. 11.

The ordination of Ena Garcia, Clara Rodes, and Xiomara Diaz Gutierrez took place at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Marianao, a suburb of Havana. All three women graduated from the Baptist seminary in Havana in the late 1960s and have served many years in pastoral roles.

Apparently only a few Cuban women ever have been ordained — perhaps only one Presbyterian and two or three Methodist women previously, said Jualynne Dodson, a sociologist who has taught at Princeton and Yale and made nine trips to Cuba.

Dodson was part of a 13-person visiting group of women pastors and religious leaders from the United States and Canada. The group, representing affiliations with four Baptist conventions, came on a week-long Women's Friendship Tour to Cuba sponsored by the Baptist Peace Fellowship of North America.

About 250 people squeezed into the church for the ordination service, which was noted during a Cuban television news program the next day. The broadcast marks a new trend in Cuba after three decades of virtually ignoring religious people and their practices.

One of the North Americans, Prathia Hall Wynn, a pastor in Philadelphia and an executive of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, delivered the ordination sermon.

The tour group took more than \$2,000 worth of supplies — mostly simple medicines and hygiene products — as a gift to Cuban Baptist churches.

the federal government's belt. Non-profit mailers have many sympathetic supporters on Capitol Hill, but legislators have multiple concerns and interests, he added.

Bush challenged Congress to approve his budget by March 20 during his third State of the Union address.

From inside the new prayer room

By Indy Whitten

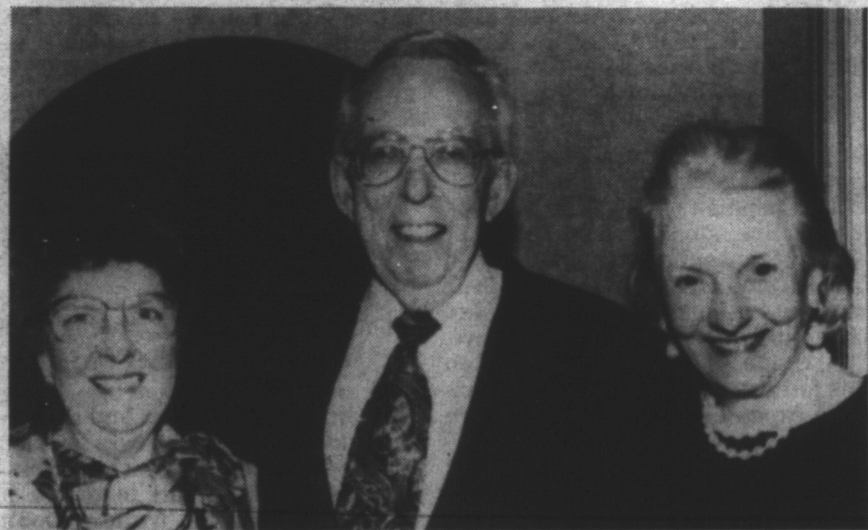
Sunday, Feb. 23, was a special day for the Clarksdale Church, pastored by Carl White. The church members knew that the new prayer room was to be inaugurated, but weren't sure how it would be done. As people began to arrive for the evening service, a large screen was seen on the platform. When questions were asked, the reply was, "It's a surprise!"

White had given a great deal of thought as to how he could arrange the presentation. The beautiful prayer room was much too small for a congregation to get inside it.

By short-circuit television, the pastor sat in the prayer room and gave a history of the establishing of the prayer room, and also explained the decoration and the facilities there. He pointed to a wooden cross on the wall as the central point of the room. Then he moved to the kneeling bench and led a prayer of dedication. He invited people in the congregation to join him by kneeling by their pews. Some people went to the front of the church to kneel.

White prayed that "prayer might be the power behind all the activities of the church."

Whitten is prayer coordinator, MBCB.



Southwestern presents music awards

The school of church music at Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, presented the Distinguished Service Award to three people during the annual Church Music Week Feb. 17-21. Receiving the award were, left to right, Elizabeth McKinney, associate professor of piano for nearly 30 years; James McKinney, dean of the school of church music since 1956; and Kathryn Bowld, a graduate of the school and major contributor to the Kathryn Sullivan Bowld Music Library which opens later this year.

Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams

The place: Franklin County

A full moon balanced over a church spire at the top of a hill. Behind the church, moonlight shimmered on a small lake. All around them hovered the silence and solace of far-stretching forests.

Bernice, wife of Pastor Darnell Archie at Bude Church, said she likes to walk in her yard and just admire the scenery.

Franklin County, with all its trees, is so different to most Mississippi places I've known that I felt as if I were visiting in another country during those springlike days of Feb. 15-19 — like England of Thomas Hardy's *The Woodlanders*.

Bude was one of the 16 churches (out of 22) in the county taking part in a world missions conference. It was host for the welcome supper on Saturday night and again for the mission fair on Sunday afternoon, where the missionaries could get to know each other and some of the county Baptists who had been working hard to get ready for this conference. I was "guest speaker" at Bude on Tuesday night — under that fantastic moon.

J. B. Gray, director of missions, had done a great job in advance planning — every "i" dotted and every "t" crossed.

Across Highway 84 from Bude Church lives the family with whom I stayed for five days. I could never have picked a nicer family had I chosen it myself! Tony Mullins, who supervises the repair of railway cars, is also pastor of Concord Church. His wife, Paulette, I could tell you, cooks delicious breakfasts and suppers. Probably lunches, too, but I ate those somewhere else. And I enjoyed the fellowship of their daughters, Misty, 8, and Maranda, 11, and their little black dog, Trooper. Misty vacated her room so I could sleep in her bed. Tony is known for his cabinet building ministry to churches (see article on that next week).

Youths of Concord, where I spoke Sunday morning, sponsored a soup and cornbread lunch that day to raise money to go to Gulfshore this summer. Their leaders, Elton Westbrook, a forester, and his wife Claris drove me to Hamburg where I was on program that night. They and the Hamburg pastor, J. C. Graves, filled me in with some historical highlights.

In the 1800s, Hamburg was a thriving place with stores, hotels, two cotton gins, and many mansions — one with "a fishing pool" at the top! A railroad brought travelers. From the station they were transported by buggy to the nearby resort at Wildwood Springs, which had springs of bubbling water and "a ten pin alley house."

However, the 1905 yellow fever epidemic changed all that when it killed nearly everyone in Hamburg.

Now Hamburg Church has a new fellowship hall. Members serve meals in it for people who come to the two

cemeteries for funerals. Also that church has an unusual ministry. Two nurses in the congregation make themselves available to take blood pressure after some services, for anyone who requests it. (Someone wisecracked that the preacher should have the folks' blood pressure taken before and after his sermons!)

Missionaries taking part in the conference met with the county's senior adults for lunch on Monday at Meadville Church, where LaRue Stephens is pastor, and I spoke Monday night. They included Byron and Dora Harbin, missionaries to Brazil; Harold Cummins, Kenya; Jerold Golston, Brazil; James W. Smith, missionary emeritus, Israel; Jack Tolar, Nigeria; Jerald and Elaine Perrill, Thailand; Louis Smith, director of church minister relations, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; W. Benjamin Johnson, Florida, HMB, retired chaplain, correctional institutions; John Revell, Florida, HMB; Frank Metcalf, Home Board, chaplain, Florida Department of Corrections; Paul Roaten, director of the Baptist Migrant Mission Center, Hope, Ark.; HMB; David Torres, native of Cuba, missionary associate, Home Mission Board's Language Church Extension Division; and Miguel F. Barrios, HMB, catalytic language missionary, Louisiana.

If laughter is like a medicine, then all of us should have been cured of any ails by the time that lunchtime meeting was over. Marvin Howard, Mt. Zion pastor (and comedian) and John Revell, Florida missionary, entertained. Retired pastor, John I. Hill, presided. The muscadine pie that he and his wife brought was my favorite "covered dish" of the week.

My cordial chauffeurs to lunches at Mt. Zion on Tuesday and Siloam on Wednesday were Hazel Cain and Gladys Gay of Concord. I had heard Hazel teach Sunday School earlier in the week. Mt. Zion, oldest church in Franklin County, is picturesque with its white columns and ancient cemetery. Siloam decorated its tables with fresh spring flowers — jonquils and buttercups, narcissus, and camellias.

My Wednesday night assignment was at New Hope, where John Adams is pastor. That church has a beautiful new building. They told me that Linda Wallace, who formerly worked in the Baptist Building, painted the baptismal mural.

Franklin County Baptists impressed me with their hospitality, generosity, and warmth. My main regret was that I could not go and hear all the other missionaries speak.

Ted Bowlin, pastor of Lucien Church, said in a letter, "You will never know how much this time has lifted my heart. It has truly been a time of renewal in my life." I felt the same.

International Student Exchange, Inc. is seeking host families

International Student Exchange, Inc., (ISE), is presently seeking host families for students from 17 different countries. Students between the ages of 15 and 18 are carefully screened by ISE for suitability. They bring their own spending money and are covered by health insurance.

While living with you, a student attends the local high school and is expected to bear his or her share of

household responsibilities. The length of stay can range from three months to a full year. An ISE representative will help you select a student from numerous student applications which include family photos and biographical essays.

For more information on being an ISE host family, or on sending a son or daughter abroad, phone ISE's Regional Office, Great Lakes, MI, 800-333-5357.

Lee churches reach out to residents of Oak Park

By Anne W. McWilliams

Oak Park Trailer Court at Plantersville near Tupelo is home to 800 who live in 121 units, an average of six persons (3 or 4 kids) each. A microcosm of America's society, the court is riddled with problems — alcohol, drug abuse, child abuse, broken homes — according to persons who have begun a mission ministry there. Residents have low or middle income, more low than middle.

Lee County Association, in cooperation with First Church, Plantersville, and New Hope Church, sponsors Sunday services and weekday ministries in a mobile chapel at the court.

"We are not trying to plant a church," said William Smith, director of missions, "but to provide a mission ministry to the people of the community." To date, mostly children have responded.

Glenn Johnson, mission pastor, is bivocational; he works at the Bank of Mississippi and studies at Blue Mountain College. Forty-five or 50 children came to the kick-off rally in October 1991, he said. Then on the first Sunday of services, only one showed up. As the people became more familiar with Johnson and what was being offered, attendance picked up to 20 or 25.

In December there were two professions of faith and in January there were four. Of these, three were adults.

"We are not just trying to report numbers," Smith added. "We are not seeking a feather for our cap but we want to help meet the people's needs. To meet the goals of Bold Mission Thrust we are going to have to get out there, to the people where they are, who are not being reached through the church. Some people are reluctant

to come to the church because they see us as an ineffective 'bunch of gooders.'"

Before Glenn and his wife Paula began work at Oak Park, a Big A club was already in place, sponsored by First Church, Plantersville, and staffed by volunteers. The Johnsons added pews to make the mobile chapel look more like a church; a carpet is to be installed.

For the Sunday morning Bible study, Paula teaches all the children under 10, including preschoolers. "I combine lessons from two books," she said. Adults and youths meet together in another class. "We need more teachers," Paula added.

Ten-year-olds are classed with the youth and adults. "They have seen so much of the rough side of life," said Johnson, "that they have the maturity of an older teen."

Most of the children have never been in church before. One 11-year-old said she had never seen a Bible. Paula leads the singing and acts as "police officer" to keep the children "settled down."

"We teach them to be reverent," said Glenn, "how to be quiet in church and to respect their parents and their leaders. We have seen a change in their behavior at church and also in the way they treat their parents."

Saturdays the Johnsons with their three children, ages 11, 8, and 6, William, Christina, and Christopher have saved for visitation of prospects at the trailer court. Glenn began a Saturday afternoon football game that proved popular and provided fellowship with some of the children.

Paula has her own child care business. The Johnson family was featured in a Baptist Record article, Sept. 12, 1991: "Why Is Gulfshore So Important to Our Family?"



Glenn Johnson, mission pastor, Oak Park Baptist Church, points out that 800 people live in the 121 units of the trailer court.



Leaders in mission ministry at Oak Park Baptist Center, Plantersville, are left to right, Glenn Johnson, mission pastor, and his wife, Paula; William P. Smith III, director of missions, Lee County Association; J. C. Prather, home missionary, director of outreach, Lee County Association; and Jimmy A. Smith, pastor, First Church, Plantersville; Mike Stewart (not pictured), pastor of New Hope Church.

Weekday activities, besides Big A and visitation, have included a chili supper and a Nintendo and pizza party for youths and children. Home Bible studies, scheduled for the future, have not begun yet.

J. C. Prather, Home Mission Board appointee who is director of outreach for the Lee County Association, said, "Bible study is just one activity. We ask them, 'How can we help you?' We are trying to determine their needs and meet them. Tutoring is much needed. We want to begin sewing classes. These and other projects which we begin will require volunteer helpers."

He added, "To make multi-housing ministry work, a person like Glenn Johnson has to be on the scene, visible, to identify with the people. If you are consistently always there, they will see that you care about them."

Jimmy Smith, pastor of First Church, Plantersville, said that a teacher of the deaf in high school had suggested that the mobile chapel building be used to minister also to deaf children; that would be a way to reach parents of the deaf.

The Lee County Food Bank, a ministry of Lee Association, housed at

First Church, Plantersville, has assisted many of the children's families. "There is a lot of unemployment and hunger in the Tupelo area," Pastor Smith said. His church also has a Benevolence Committee that helps needy families.

The mission at Oak Park has given 20 Bibles, courtesy of American Bible Society, to children who did not own one of their own. Adults who learned that Bibles were on "the free table" came and asked for one.

"We cooperate as church and mission," said the Plantersville pastor. Some people who live at Oak Park attend the Plantersville church, rather than the mission chapel.

In the cooperative agreement, New Hope Church (Mike Stewart, pastor) provides the mission pastor and a salary supplement for him, plus administrative support. First, Plantersville provides for the mission ministries, plus rent and utilities for the chapel; Lee Association pays for property maintenance and repair and a salary supplement for the pastor.

As DOM Bill Smith said, "Mississippi is just as important a mission field as any foreign field. We are part of the global mission effort."

Chapman comes across as man of compassion

By Art Toalston

NASHVILLE (BP) — The pastor stood by the bedside of a gravely ill friend this past New Year's Eve.

He took the man's hand; the man gently squeezed back. "That was the last thing he did before he died," the man's wife, Wanda, remembered, "and Morris prayed the sweetest prayer."

Morris Chapman watched his friend Gary Brown, a diabetic since age 7, succumb that afternoon to a series of medical traumas including kidney failure and dialysis, triple bypass heart surgery, and amputation of both legs.

"The desperate need for spiritual awakening in this nation has been ever present in my thoughts," Chapman told fellow Baptist leaders in issuing the call to prayer. "Each hour we fail (to pray together as Southern Baptists) another family is broken apart, another teen-ager contemplates suicide, another man or woman falls into immorality, another soul is lost to the kingdom of God."

Such is the man selected for one of the most influential posts among Southern Baptists — president and treasurer of the convention's Executive Committee. The 77-member committee, which unanimously elected Chapman Feb. 17, allocates more than \$140 million in Cooperative Program funds given by Southern Baptists for national and international

missions and ministry, and it acts in behalf of the Southern Baptist Convention between its annual meetings. He will succeed Harold C. Bennett, 67, who is retiring after 13 years in the post.

Chapman, 51, has been part of the SBC all his life. His parents were faithful members of Southern Baptist churches in several Mississippi towns. Revival services at First Church in Laurel stirred him to yearn for salvation at age 7 and; in his pastor's office, he prayed to receive Christ as Savior and Lord. At age 12, he sensed a call to Christian work during the final service of a boys' Royal Ambassador's camp.

As a student at Southern Baptist-affiliated Mississippi College where he graduated in 1963, he participated in the Baptist Student Union, attended student week at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Conference Center, and took his first church job as a part-time minister of music and youth in nearby Jackson. At age 21, in a summer of youth ministry back in Laurel, he sensed a call to the preaching ministry. At Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, Chapman earned a master of divinity degree in 1968 and a doctor of ministry in 1975.

"I learned what I learned," he reflected, "at the feet of Baptists."

After 28 years of marriage, he remains a romantic. "He hasn't missed

a year sending roses on our anniversary," his wife Jodi noted. "He likes to bring home little surprises. He calls every night when he's out of town. It's been a good example for our children — our son is a romantic because of his dad." The son, Chris, is minister of singles and college students at First Church in Lakeland, Fla. The Chapmans' daughter, Stephanie, works in the Houston headquarters of a national Christian counseling ministry.

Just weeks before Chapman was to enter college, his parents divorced. Then Chapman's father, who had owned a tire store in the town of Kosciusko, went bankrupt. Chapman and his brother, Ron, moved with their mother to Jackson, where she and Ron, now a china sales representative, still reside. Chapman had counted on his father's promise to help with college expenses but suddenly, "There was no money."

Chapman decided to sell a 1948 Chevrolet he had bought with money earned as a youth, but still he was \$300 shy of his first semester costs. Only in the cashier's line at college did he learn of a deferred payment plan that would allow him to proceed with classes. He paid for his education by church work and a job at a Jackson shoe store.

He had been a music major but was feeling "something incomplete" about

the solos he sang in church. The night before preaching in church on youth Sunday, he urgently asked God for "a sure sign he was calling me into the preaching ministry" — at least two decisions after his sermon. If there was none, he would accept it as God saying no; if just one, no clear sign.

His fleece didn't come to mind once he started preaching then opened the invitation. Two young people came forward seeking salvation.

A third committed herself to missions. His fleece flashed back to mind and "then and there in my heart I accepted God's call to preach. From that day until this God has confirmed that call again and again."

Chapman is unapologetic for his biblical conservatism, stating, "To love God is to live with deep conviction."

Biblical conservatism and convictions do not limit a person's love for those with whom he or she differs, Chapman said. "We are to love each other in light of the truth of God's Word. Truth gives us the liberty to love and does not give us the license to hate."

Nor do biblical conservatism and convictions lead to a narrow-minded lifestyle devoid of joy, he said. "On the contrary. The Bible teaches that truth sets you free."

Toalston writes for BP.

Home Board adds two to staff

ATLANTA (BP) — The first missionary to work with abortion alternatives and an assistant director of refugee church growth were elected during the February meeting of the executive committee of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

Barbara Noakes was appointed to work as a national missionary in alternatives to abortion. Noakes has been director of the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Oklahoma City for four years.

Noakes will move to Atlanta where she will work with Sylvia Booth, HMB coordinator for alternatives to abortion ministries. Noakes will be available to churches throughout the nation to help them develop abortion alternative ministries.

William M. Fulkerson was elected to the refugee church growth position to administer the HMB immigration and refugee resettlement program. Since 1983 the Kansas native has directed language ministries for the Atlanta Baptist Association.

Fulkerson, 54, holds bachelor's and master's degrees from Southern Illinois University. The former pastor also is a graduate of Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

During the meeting it was also reported that the chaplains' commission endorsed 81 chaplains, bringing the total number of Southern Baptist-endorsed chaplains to 2,338.

HOUSE TOPS

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light: and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the housetops. Matthew 10:27 NAS

March 5, 1992

HOUSE TOPS is a supplement to the Baptist Record and is produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.

HELPING TO BRING MISSISSIPPI AND THE WORLD TO JESUS

By Ray Grissitt, Director
Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB

Helping to Bring Mississippi and the World to Jesus is the desire and goal of Bill Causey, Executive Director-Treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, along with all of us who are co-laborers with you as we attempt to reach our state.

Recently Eugene Dobbs of our convention put together "Some Facts of the Lostness in Mississippi". He says, "18,000-plus baptisms were reported last year and at the present rate of baptisms:

- with nobody else being born
- with nobody else dying
- with only Southern Baptists reaching persons for our Lord

We would reach the last one who is presently lost in the fall of the year 2056!"

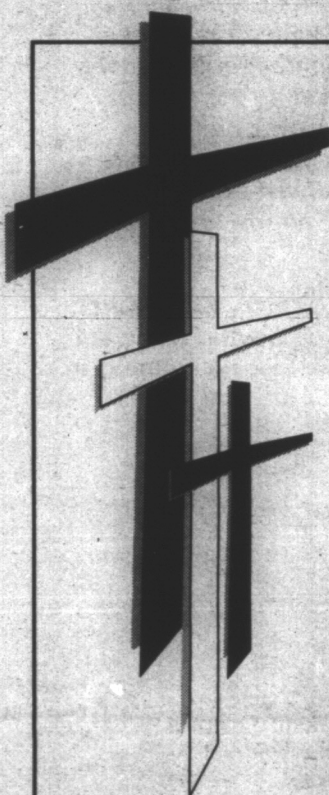
Why should we plant churches /church-type missions?

- Church planting is the most effective method of evangelism on earth today.
- The combined church-planting efforts of all denominations do not balance population growth.
- New churches reach unchurched people
- Planting churches stimulates the growth of existing churches
- Church planting is characteristic of Southern Baptists
- Some people will not attend established churches but will respond to new churches
- New communities need churches
- New churches become part of the financial and personnel bases for sending the gospel around the world

Where should we plant churches/church type missions?

- Underchurched cities and communities
- Lifestyle groups

"Helping to Win..." cont. on back of HT



Vocational Guidance Interpretation

Saturday, April 11, 1992
9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Baptist Building, Jackson

Training Leaders in Vocational Guidance

Donna Gandy, consultant
Church Staff Support
Church Administration Department
BSSB, Nashville

Cost \$7.00 (includes one selected resource and materials)

Agenda

- I. The Church's role in vocational guidance
- II. The vocational guidance process
 - A. The Calling
 - B. Responding to God's call
 - C. Giving Affirmation
 - D. Providing Information
 - E. Nurturing the Called
 - F. Structuring Experiences
 - G. Preparing for Ministry
 - H. Serving in a Ministry Occupation
 - I. Making Transitions Within Ministry
- III. The Sunday School Board's Role in Vocational Guidance
- IV. Principles of Vocational Guidance
 - A. The Climate for Vocational Guidance
 - B. Discovering God's Will
 - C. Identifying Personal Strengths
- V. Vocational Guidance Techniques
 - A. Conducting a Guidance Interview
 - B. Using Counseling Instruments
 - C. Setting Up An Apprentice Program
- VI. Organizing for Vocational Guidance in the Church

Vocational Guidance Interpretation Conference

April 11, 1992

Name _____ Church Position _____
Address _____ City _____ ZIP _____
Name of Church _____ Name of Association _____
Home Phone No. _____ Church Phone No. _____

Enclosed is my check in the amount of \$7.00 to cover the cost of a selected resource and other materials.
Mail to: Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries • MBCB • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530.

Gulfshore Youth Music Conference July 11 - 15, 1992

A three-day, four-night conference which will provide opportunities for 7th-12th grade youth in spiritual growth, choral singing, handbell ringing, and instrumental music.

Choral Clinician:
Dr. Richard Joiner, Head of Music
Department, Mississippi College



Things to Know:

1. Classes to be offered include:

- Basic Musicianship
- Voice
- Handbells
- Accompanying
- Electronic Keyboard
- Songleading
- Guitar
- Instrumental Ensemble
- Choreography
- Drama
- Bible Studies

2. Choral music packets will be purchased at Gulfshore.

Daily Schedule:

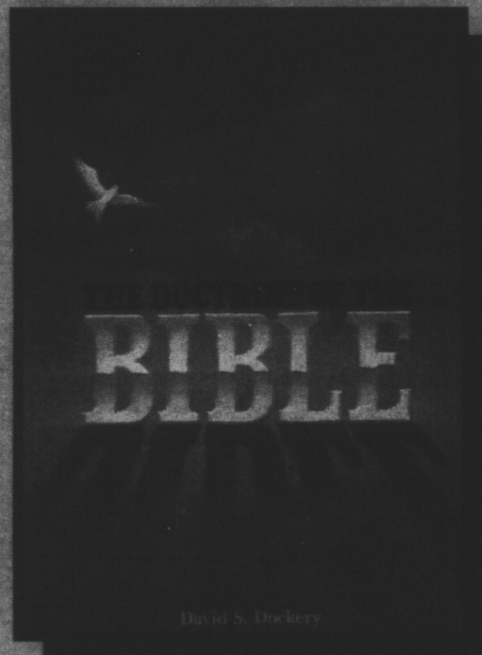
8:00	Morning Watch
8:15	Choral Rehearsal
9:15	Classes
10:00	Break
10:15	Classes
11:05	Rehearsal
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Planned Recreation
2:30	Free Time
5:00	Supper
6:15	Gulfshore Families
7:15	Worship
8:15	Fellowship Time
9:00	Free Time

Cost: \$119.00 per person, includes all meals, lodging, insurance and tee-shirt

This is what Convention Leaders are saying about the 1992 Doctrine Study

"I think The Doctrine of the Bible is the best concise treatment of the subject I have ever read. It will help clarify a lot of misunderstanding about what we believe about the Bible. It is a brief but tremendously comprehensive book. It touches just about every base. It is scholarly and appropriate for use in university and seminary classrooms."

James T. Draper,
President, Baptist Sunday
School Board



"The writer communicates with clarity, investigates his subject comprehensively, and affirms the uniqueness and authority of the Bible with persuasion. The book clarifies the theological emphases reflected by current leadership in the Southern Baptist Convention. The publication demands thoughtful consideration by the serious reader and explains numerous aspects of the Bible related to a decade of Southern Baptist discussion on the nature and authority of the Bible."

Roy L. Honeycutt,
President, Southern Baptist
Theological Seminary

This is what Mississippi Baptists can look forward to Doctrine Study Preview Clinics during the week of March 16-20 from 9 a.m. til Noon

March 16	North Winona & FBC McComb	March 19	Mississippi College & Hernando Baptist
March 17	FBC Starkville & William Carey College	March 20	Delta State, BSU & Clark College
March 18	Blue Mt. College & FBC Gulfport		

Second Century Fund

Honoring My Heritage,
Lengthening My Legacy



The WMU Second Century Fund is a permanent endowment fund established in observance of WMU's centennial year, 1988, as today's gift to future generations of women in missions. The income produced from this fund is used to develop and support the work of women in missions at home and abroad. Grants from this fund are being given to develop missions awareness and missions organizations on foreign fields. They also support the development of WMU leadership and WMU organizations in the United States, including new areas and among new groups. They also foster WMU education by providing learning opportunities for students and faculty in Southern Baptist seminaries.

Investments of the Second Century Fund are governed by the Executive Board of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. All gifts are invested and protected as a part of the endowment. Only the income earned from the investment is spent. The WMU Board also determines how the earnings of the fund will be distributed among qualified grant applicants.

You can contribute to the Second Century Fund by: 1) making cash gifts of any size, including memorials and gifts in honor of people still living (when such a gift is sent to WMU, SBC, Mary Helen Dixon will send a letter to the person or family being memorialized or honored if proper name(s) and address(es) are enclosed); 2) including Second Century Fund in your will; 3) naming WMU-Second Century Fund as the beneficiary on a life insurance policy; 4) making a gift of capital assets such as certificates of deposit, stocks, bonds, or real estate; 5) creating a charitable trust with assets such as cash, stocks, bonds or real estate, providing the donor income for life, and upon the donor's death, benefit the Second Century Fund.

If you would like more information about the Second Century Fund, please fill in the information below and check the appropriate box(es).

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone (____) _____

Mail to Mary Helen Dixon
Second Century Fund, WMU, SBC
P.O. Box 830010
Birmingham, AL 35283-0010
205-991-4026

☐ Making a bequest under a will
☐ Capital asset bequests
☐ Life insurance policy information
☐ I am making a donation (if in honor or memory of, please enclose names and addresses of persons to be notified)

SE Statistics Turn Upward

A total of 5,511 students enrolled for 10,379 Seminary Extension courses during 1990-91, according to the year end report. Both figures represent increases over comparable figures for the previous year.

The numbers for Seminary Extension centers increased by about five percent, while those for correspondence study dropped slightly. Centers were active in 345 locations, including at least 36 states and three foreign countries. Independent study students could be found in most of the 50 states and 19 foreign countries.

North Carolina, Texas, and Tennessee continued to lead all other states in numbers of centers and students. North Carolina had 72 centers and 1,214 students, Texas 38 and 956, and Tennessee 25 and 320.

Other leading states included Kentucky (9; 224), Mississippi (16; 207), and Florida (13; 201). California and Missouri tied with 15 centers and 179 students each.

Persons interested in learning more about what Seminary Extension can offer should contact Richard Brogan, 968-3800, Ext. 3961.

HT

MISSISSIPPI PRAYERGRAM

March 5-March 19, 1992

- Pray for Nela Hqrak Williams, a native of Yugoslavia, whose missionary husband was killed in an automobile accident several years ago. She continues to be a Southern Baptist missionary and she returned to Zagreb, capital of Croatia, on Jan. 1, before a cease-fire had taken place.
- Pray for the witness of Christian Russian immigrants in Israel, that Israelis will be open to hearing the gospel.
- Pray for the Week of Prayer for Home Missions, that this special emphasis will result in personal witnessing and church planting, as well as prayer and money offerings.
- Pray for James Cook of Talbotton, GA. He asks for prayer to prepare his people to boldly and intelligently witness to 4,000-5,000 Muslims who will be moving to the area. A university and a mosque, along with 100 homes and shopping mall are to be built on the 192 acres. A Muslim seminary will be a part of the university.
- Pray for Joan Leggett of Linderwood, NJ, a church planter for a Baptist association in Pennsylvania and one in New Jersey. Two needs of the area are: 1. Sponsoring churches for new missions; 2. Short and long term volunteers and bivocational pastors to help start work and strengthen existing ministries.
- Pray for Annual Meeting of WMU of Mississippi to be held at First Church, Clinton, on March 16 and 17. Thank God for the ministry of WMU over the past 103 year of its history.
- Pray for Mississippi's governmental officials as the year progresses, that they make wise and godly choices for our state.
- Continue to pray for the Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership. Pray especially for Hiram and Shirley Powell, on-the-field coordinators for the partnership. Pray that their work permit will come through soon and for them as they prepare "the massive house for themselves and the groups that will come."
- A suggestion: Clip prayergrams from **HouseTops** to be used individually, as families and as churches

HT

HOUSETOPS

GUIDING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 1992

Skyroom, Baptist Building

- To help pastors and children's worship leaders to understand children and their concept of worship
- To decide how to determine needs and to provide worship experiences for children
- To learn how to use current Baptist Sunday School Board materials in guiding children in worship experiences

9:30 COFFEE AND REGISTRATION
10:00 INTRODUCTION
10:30 "WHAT IS WORSHIP?"
11:00 PASTOR VIEW OF CHILDREN AND WORSHIP (John Brock, FBC, Pearl; Jim Futral, Broadmoor; and Ricky Kennedy, Meadow Grove, Brandon)
12:15 LUNCH
1:00 "HOW TO USE THE WORSHIP RESOURCE KIT"
2:00 "HELPING CHILDREN UNDERSTAND CONVERSION"

Registration Form

GUIDING CHILDREN IN WORSHIP

March 31, 1992

\$5.00

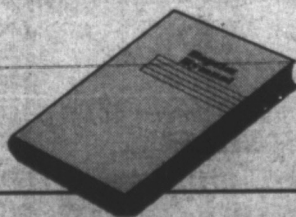
Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Church _____
Your Position _____

Enclose this form with your registration fee and mail to:
Linda Reeves • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530.
Make check payable to Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Registration fee is needed by March 24.

Hymnbooks Needed

Does your church have hymnbooks that are not being used? We have a request for used hymnbooks in good condition. If you can help with this request, please contact:

Cooperative Missions Department
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board
P.O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205-0530
Phone: (601) 968-3800, Ext. 3961

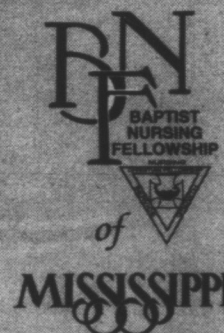


The Annuity Board is offering you a **FREE** property evaluation for your church or association office. Our new Church Property & Casualty Program offers you:

- Comprehensive Coverage
- Affordable Prices
- Personal Service

We're building a program just for you!
Call 1-800-321-5754 for your **FREE** property evaluation.

BAPTIST NURSING FELLOWSHIP OF MISSISSIPPI REPORTS THESE SPECIAL MINISTRIES OPPORTUNITIES



1. Rolled Bandages:

Martha Hagood, missionary doctor, requests Rolled Bandages for the hospital in Eku, Nigeria, where she serves.

Directions: Clean sheets, torn in three to four-inch strips, rolled and tied, make excellent bandages for the patients.

Mail your packages to:

The Pain Clinic
320 S. Gloster Street
Tupelo, MS 38801

We appreciate Dr. John W. McFadden, former missionary doctor to Nigeria, for mailing these supplies.

2. Children's Chewable Vitamins:

Caroline Connerly, RN, missionary to Peru, states, "These vitamins are greatly needed here and will be used in the most productive way." PLEASE REMOVE ALL PRICE TAGS FROM BOXES AND WRITE DONATION ON EACH BOX. This keeps down large extra fees being imposed on the missionaries.

Send these vitamins for the children of Peru to:

Mrs. Mary Lou Davis
Route 2, Box 161N
Carrollton, MS 38917
Home Phone: 237 6964

Vitamins are also needed for the children of the Rio Grande. Send them to:

Mrs. Delores York
Route 1, Box 93-E
La Feria, Texas 78559

(Delores is the Health Care Coordinator for the Rio Grande Valley Area Ministry, the Texas Baptist Convention)

3. Used eyeglasses are needed by the missionary nurse, Jeni Hester, in Columbia. As she goes into the rural areas conducting clinics, she takes a box of glasses. People try them on for fit.

Please mail eyeglasses to:

Mrs. Mary Lou Davis
Route 2, Box 161N
Carrollton, MS 38917
Home Phone: 237 6964

(Mrs. Davis is the missionary nurse liaison chairperson for BNF.)

4. Children's Village: Towels, washcloths, single bed linens, and pillows, are needed for a cottage which houses unwed mothers and older teenage girls. Toiletries (Q Tips etc.) house slippers (medium size), pantyhose (medium and large), and T-shirts in large sizes are needed for the unwed mothers. No baby or maternity clothes are needed. Any used clothing (jeans etc.) in good condition can be used by the older teenagers.

You may take items to the Social Services Office at the Village, Monday through Friday. The address is:

Social Services Office
Baptist Children's Village
805 Flag Chapel Village

You may mail items to the following address: (first class)

Social Services Office
Baptist Children's Village
P.O. Box 27
Clinton, MS 39060

UPS: 805 Flag Chapel Road, Jackson, MS 39209

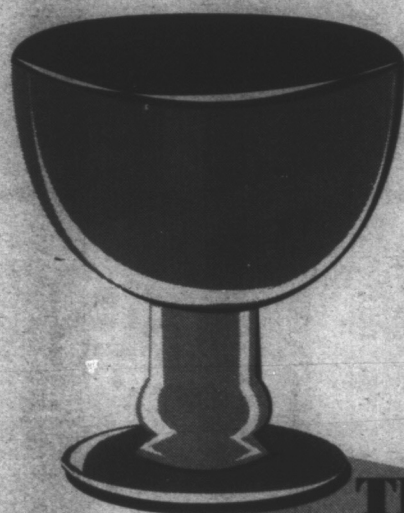
BNF of Mississippi is sponsored by Woman's Missionary Union, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, P.O. 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Phone: 968-3800.

BNF Contact Person: Mrs. Jimmy McCaleb
BW/BYW Consultant

Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Conference "Fill My Cup"

Camp Garaywa, Clinton
April 13-14, 1992



SKILL AND PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT...

to enable church, associational and agency secretaries to be partners in the ministry of the denomination.

REGISTRATION: \$25.00...

covers cost of meals, lodging, and materials. This fee is refundable if cancellation is received prior to April 1, 1992. You may choose not to stay overnight and purchase meals as needed. Cost of materials \$2.00.

THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST SECRETARIES ASSOCIATION...

will hold its annual meeting at this time.

FIVE STUDY COURSE BOOKS OFFERED...

The Secretary: Partners in Church Growth • A Secretary's Role in Ministry • Writing Office Policies and Procedures • A Manual of Style • Fundamentals of Filing

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS...

Simultaneous conferences: Balancing Home and Work • How to Help in Times of Crisis • Retirement/Insurance/Salary/Tax Information • Personal Safety • Introduction to Computers

General Sessions: devotional thoughts • personal financial management • help in being a witnessing secretary • using spiritual gifts • mental/physical health

Small group sessions for: all types of church secretaries in all types of job situations

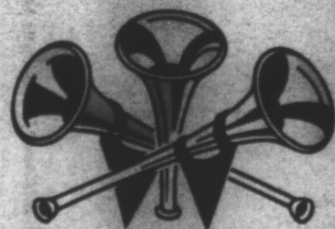
For more information concerning this conference, please contact:

Church Administration-Pastoral Ministries Department • P O Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205 • (601)968-3800

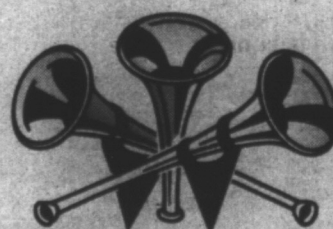
STATE YOUNG MUSICIAN'S CHORAL FESTIVAL

MISSISSIPPI COLLEGE COLISEUM, CLINTON, MS

APRIL 4, 1992 8:45 a.m.—1:30 p.m.



Guest Conductor—Rhonda Edge Buescher
Music faculty, Southwestern Baptist
Theological Seminary,
Fort Worth, TX



Guests are invited to the program from 1:00—1:30 p.m.

Contact the Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (968-3800) for a list of the music to be memorized and a registration form.

The Mississippi-Zimbabwe Partnership

office is organizing an evangelism team for travel to Africa, May 11-28. Volunteers are needed for both evangelists and lay persons. Cost of the trip is \$2,350 which includes insurance, air travel, lodging, food, and field side transportation. For more information, contact Bill Hardy, partnership coordinator, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, phone 968-3800.

"Helping to Win..." cont. from front of HT

- Multihousing
- Inner cities
- New towns and communities
- Different folk neighborhoods or pockets of people

How should we plant churches/church-type missions?

A church can sponsor a congregation or assist in reaching people in several ways:

- Prayer and dependence on God
- Every church participating in congregational sponsorship
- Church members' commitment to missions
- Volunteer involvement in church planting
- Individual response to God's call to mission service
- Increased giving through the Cooperative Program and Annie Armstrong Easter Offering
- Use of resources available through your association, state convention, and HMB

Your church can be one of the sponsoring churches or a co-sponsoring church needed at this time (secure more information from the Cooperative Missions Department, MBCB).

HT

RESPONSE FORM

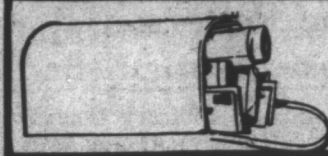
We want to help reach Mississippi by sponsoring a mission congregation. We are interested in being a _____ sponsor, _____ co-sponsor. Please let us know where a mission church is needed and how we can help.

CHURCH NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____
PHONE _____ PASTOR _____

MAIL TO:

Your Associational Director of Missions and
Cooperative Missions,
MBCB • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530

HOUSE OF



Letters to the editor

Participants in genocide?

Editor:

I read "Letters to the Editor" which appeared in the Record of Jan. 30. The comments about abortion were that it was not directly condemned in Scriptures and that abortion was no different than any other sin, i.e. fornication.

This theology is that from which collapsed nations are made. Nations, including nations of God's people, are reduced to the ash heap of history due to the type of doctrine. Read Psalms 106:34-41 and II Kings 24:1-4 for examples of God's judgment on "his people" who disobey him while practicing the human sacrifice of their children.

As to whether or not the Bible directly condemns abortion, I point out the Sixth Commandment, "Thou Shall Not Do Murder." Enough said.

I coordinate "Operation Rescue" in Mississippi and am very much involved in live-saving, director action at the death mills in Jackson.

I have spent an estimated 10,000 hours at the death chambers at this city's three abortion mills, have persuaded hundred and hundreds of pregnant mothers not to kill their preborn children while offering concrete, Christian alternatives to human sacrifice, and have been arrested and jailed fifty times for peacefully entering onto the private properties of the human exterminators in peaceful efforts to "rescue the perishing."

I have years of experience in all areas of pro-life involvement. People ask me often, "What is it going to take to end abortion?" My first thought from a practical point is, "To get the Baptists out of the abortion mills."

The complicity of the Baptists in the genocide of God's precious, perishing preborn as employees and "clients" is absolutely enormous! Christians are sacrificing their children to the pagan gods of convenience, reputations, and materialism, right along with the heathen. If you don't believe me, join me one Saturday morning.

The holy wrath of a holy and righteous God must be kindled against persons who "choose" to offer their children and grandchildren to a torturous death as well as those who "choose" not to be involved as well as a nation that protects the killers and imprisons rescuers.

I am not writing this letter to place guilt. There is plenty of guilt to go around, and it does not begin and end with the U.S. Supreme Court of our government. I do know that the blood of the innocent children is being shed (180,000 in Mississippi and 1,000 added per month) for our joint guilt and their blood stains Mississippi and cries to the God of heaven for vengeance.

As for jail, it may be the most sacred of dwelling places in the face of institutionalized mass murder of God's more helpless, innocent, and vulnerable children.

C. Roy McMillan
Jackson

Book requested for WV

Editor:

My name is Richard Harris; I am associate missionary for the Upper Ohio Valley Association in West Virginia. We are a small association with eight churches and one mission.

I am writing to you concerning our need for books for pastors in the pioneer mission field. Most of our pastors have not been to seminary nor received any pastoral education. They are not paid very well and have not accumulated large libraries. This is the reason I am writing you. I thought you might know of retiring pastors or pastors and churches that periodically clean books from their libraries. It could be a good mission project for them to send those volumes to our association, and we can give them to pastors who could use and need them.

These books could be shipped UPS to the association office which is located in my home. We will distribute them.

Send to Upper Ohio Valley Baptist Association, Rt. 1, Box 125, Triadelphia, WV 26059

Richard Harris

Heritage forsaken by churches

Editor:

It is sad that most Southern Baptist churches have forsaken the Baptist heritage concerning church membership. As the pamphlet: Responsible Church Membership (produced by the

Historical Commission of the SBC) states: "They reached four basic conclusions: 1) admission standards for membership should be high; 2) believer's baptism is essential for membership and helps safeguard this regenerate nature of church life; 3) church members should consistently meet biblical requirements for doctrinal soundness, moral purity, spiritual growth, covenant relationship, and active ministry; and 4) discipline should be administered for serious failure to meet the covenantal expectations of church membership."

It seems that most churches have left three of the four basic conclusions and this is a great tragedy. Today there are many churches with members who give no evidence of being regenerate. It is time for Baptists today to return to those high standards and take positive and practical steps to ensure a healthy membership. It is a dishonor to God and Southern Baptists that we have churches who have members that are in "good standing" but work at abortion clinics, are seeking unbiblical divorces, filing bankruptcy, suing other Christians, committing adultery and fornication, etc. and the church stands passively by. It is time for churches to take positive action to seek to bring these members to biblical repentance. But due to the misuse of church discipline years ago most Southern Baptist churches have completely dismissed its practice and act as if it were not even in Scripture. (Matt. 18:15-20; I Cor. 5:1-12; II Thess. 3:6-10; I Tim. 5:20; Titus 1:13 and 3:10; Rev. 2:14-16, 20). As a result, many Christians have suffered and the church has been dishonored because biblical discipline and restoration have been forsaken for the sake of peace at all cost. The only person in the church likely to be disciplined today is the pastor and most of the time the way it is handled is unbiblical. The writer of Hebrews says: "Make level paths for your feet, so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed" Heb. 12:13. Here he is calling Christians to a godly conduct that will help, rather than hinder, the spiritual and moral welfare of others, especially those crippled by sin who waver in the Christian faith.

Thomas Winn
Brookhaven

The smallest church in the world designated as a cathedral is Christ Catholic Church in Highlandville, Mo. It seats 18.

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code, and phone number in word count.
No blind ads.

FOR SALE: 1967 Silver Eagle, 46-passenger bus. Overhauled engine — 25,000 miles. First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 780, Yazoo City, MS 39194. (601) 746-2471.

NEEDED: Mature Summer CAMP DIRECTOR (male or female or couple to serve as director/counselor). Five weeks of camp July 6-August 7. Minimum requirements — 1 year college, 21 years old. Camping experience helpful, but not necessary. Camp located in Charleston area. Send cover letter and resume to David Crowe, Route 1, Box 27-A, Enis, MS 38927. (601) 623-7910. Must be received by April 1.



Mrs. Kaye Hodge, right, presents a portrait to Ervin and Ruth Brown during the Browns' retirement celebration at First Church, Hernando Feb. 23.

Northwest honors Browns

By Anne W. McWilliams

Northwest Association held a retirement celebration on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 23, honoring Ervin and Ruth Brown. He retired March 1 after 30 years as director of missions and she as office manager for the association for 17 years.

The two-hour program at First Church, Hernando, featured Bill Causey, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, in a Celebration Message. Causey said, "A man can't do anything by himself... There will never be a great pastor without great laypeople or great laypeople without a great pastor... He (Brown) could not have kept all these churches laboring together in this way all these years without the Spirit of God in him."

Northwest Association has 55 churches. Brown helped to get 23 of those churches started and was beginning mission pastor of five of them. One of the 23 was First Church, Nesbit. The Men's Quartet from the church presented Celebration Music.

Special guests present to extend expressions of appreciation were Mayor Wilson L. Douglas of Hernando; Danny Phillips, president of the Rotary Club; Art Leslie, director of missions, Grenada Association and president of

the Mississippi Directors of Missions; Bob Maddux, pastor at Coldwater and moderator of the Northwest Association; and J. B. Bell, friend of the Browns.

The 55 churches of the association had collected a love offering for the Browns which amounted to \$6,300 that day presented by Maddux. Every day since then, additional offerings have arrived from churches and individuals as gifts to the Browns. Other gifts from the association included a book of memories. Edsel Bone, chairman of the Celebration Committee presided over the ceremonies.

A portrait of the Browns was given to them by Mrs. Kaye Hodge. A quilt with squares representing various churches and an autographed pillow both came from Eudora Church. The pillow was presented by Mrs. W. A. Earnheart. A photo album was presented by Mrs. Verlie House, and other personal gifts, including watches, were presented by Pastor Bone.

Others on the Celebration Committee included Charles Cavanaugh, David Holmes, Jim Craig, Robert Miller, and Mrs. LaWanda Wade.

Brown has accepted a position as minister of senior adults at Colonial Hills Church, Southaven.

Churches adopt Expanded Annuity Plan

The following churches have adopted the Expanded Annuity Plan since those reported in the February 6 issue of the Baptist Record: Hinds-Madison: Twin Lakes; Lincoln: Montgomery; Pearl River: Central; Simpson: Beulah; and Tippah: Springdale.

Evangelical leaders note significant timing of Frohnmayer's resignation as NEA chairman

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — Evangelical leaders say the timing of John Frohnmayer's announcement of his resignation as chairman of the controversial National Endowment for the Arts is significant.

Frohnmayer announced his resignation Feb. 21, three days after President George Bush's unimpressive victory over Pat Buchanan in the Republican primary in New Hampshire. The day prior to the announcement, Buchanan cited the NEA in lashing out at the president for his unfaithfulness to conservative Republicans.

Frohnmayer served nearly two and a half years as chairman. His years were marked by criticism from some members of Congress as well as evangelical and conservative groups for funding what they considered sexually explicit and sacrilegious "art." Many organizations, including the

Christian Life Commission, repeatedly called for his dismissal as part of a reformation of the NEA.

"I believe that the Christian Life Commission and other evangelical groups softened Mr. Frohnmayer up and Pat Buchanan delivered the knockout punch in New Hampshire," said Richard D. Land, executive director of the Southern Baptist Convention's moral issues and religious liberty agency.

"I think he was fired for the same reasons he was hired — that is political reasons," said Don Wildmon, president of the American Family Association. "He was a stone around the president's neck that the president couldn't have during an election year."

"I think the decision probably had been made prior to primary that Frohnmayer had to go. He would have probably stayed on a little bit longer had the primary not turned out like it

did," Wildmon said.

"I personally think they will probably wait until after the election before they make that appointment," Wildmon said. "After the election, obviously they're going to have more freedom to do whatever they're wanting to do."

Controversy over NEA grants existed before Frohnmayer's appointment by President Bush in October 1989. Robert Mapplethorpe's homoerotic photographs and Andres Serrano's photograph of a crucifix submerged in urine, both included in grants approved before Frohnmayer, attracted widespread public attention at about the time he became chairman.

The controversial grants continued, however, during Frohnmayer's tenure and included:

— Sexually explicit, often

homosexual-oriented, and sacrilegious presentations by performance artists such as Annie Sprinkle, Holly Hughes, Karen Finley, John Fleck, and Tim Miller.

— "Poison," a movie with "unabashed homoeroticism" as its writer/director Todd Haynes described it.

— Homosexual film festivals in six cities.

— "Women for Choice," a 30-second pro-abortion ad promoting the National Abortion Rights Action League.

— "Tongues Untied," a movie about black homosexuals and filled with obscenities. It was presented on the Public Broadcasting System but many PBS stations refused to broadcast it.

— A poem from Queer City, a NEA-funded book, depicting Jesus as a homosexual child molester.

Strobe is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

WMU

From page 3

total mission in the world."

WMU representatives consented to changing the reference in the purpose statement to "Southern Baptist churches" and adding "Southern Baptist" in one other place in the body of the document. They balked at other similar insertions, saying the program statement had been previously approved by the WMU executive board, making them reluctant to agree to substantive changes.

The minor revisions satisfied the subcommittee, which voted unanimously to recommend the program statement to the full Executive Committee, where it also passed without dissent. McMillan said his motion to invite WMU to pursue legal steps to become an SBC agency would give the auxiliary an opportunity to assure Southern Baptists it does not intend to alter its commitment exclusively to SBC causes.

"We have a real need here," he said. "If we are going to be in the same camp together, we need to be in the same camp together. I have never been able to figure out why we have the WMU president as (an ex-officio) member of the Executive Committee, but we have no say-so in what they do. I think it's time for us to close the gap."

A program statement revision for the SBC Christian Life Commission also generated debate.

The SBC Executive Committee president Harold C. Bennett has signed a contract with Barry McCarty to be chief parliamentarian for the 1992 SBC meeting. McCarty, an ordained Church of Christ minister has been chief parliamentarian for the SBC since 1986.

More legislative bills introduced

The following bills are those which have been introduced since the publication of the Baptist Record on Feb. 13. These bills need the attention and response of concerned Christians. Legislators can be contacted by calling 359-3770 or writing them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39215.

Alcohol: HB 664 and SB 2612 would revise state statutes regarding the maiming of persons by driver who is driving under the influence of alcohol.

HB 883 would authorize beer manufacturers to sell on premises.

HB 912 would authorize beer sales in resort areas on Sundays.

HB 913 would reduce size of city for local option elections to legalize beer.

HB 917 would establish penalties for violations of local option liquor laws.

SB 2504 would lower the blood alcohol percentage level for legal drunkenness and also would require forfeiture of motor vehicle for third or subsequent offense.

SB 2565 would allow the waiver of distance restrictions which pertain to manufacturing, selling, or storing intoxicating liquor.

Drugs: HB 663 would increase penalties for violation of state drug laws.

HB 728 would create immunity for certain school employees for reporting drug use in good faith and disciplining students.

HB 869 would establish the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1992.

SB 2611 would increase penalties for selling marijuana and possessing cocaine.

Family: HB 658 would create a 13th reason for divorce and allow for divorce for irreconcilable differences.

SB 2501 would allow for divorce following desertion of spouse for a period of six months or more.

Gambling: HB 717 would allow local option election on pari-mutuel gambling on horse racing in a county.

HB 718 would allow local option election on pari-mutuel gambling on dog racing in a county.

HB 719 would authorize pari-mutuel betting and off-track betting at dog and horse racing tracks.

SB 2499 would prohibit bingo games on Sunday.

SB 2558 would allow the city of Biloxi to tax gaming vessels.

Obscenity: HB 677 would revise certain definitions to strengthen the state obscenity laws.

Other: SB 2496 would require a vote of people involved on municipal annexation.

SB 2532 would prohibit possession of certain weapons upon elementary, vocational, or secondary school grounds.

— Compiled by Paul Jones, director and Beth Holmes, consultant, of the Christian Action Commission, MBC.

The contract calls for him to be paid \$1,000 per day that he is at the convention site, beginning June 6. The convention ends June 11. In addition he is to be paid a \$1,000 preparation fee, plus \$125 per hour for an pre- and post-convention consultation, plus expenses.

Bill Meleski, a layman from Kenai, Alaska, and Wendell Wood, a minister from Burton, Mich., were elected to the committee. They each were nominated by Executive Committee members and elected over the nominations of the executive directors of their state conventions. Meleski was elected after subcommittee members rescinded a previous vote to nominate Herb Cotton, a layman from Anchorage, who had been proposed by Alaska convention executive Bill Duncan.

Allen is editor, Maryland BAPTIST TRUE UNION and Dilday writes for RELIGIOUS HERALD, Virginia. Marv Knox, editor of the WESTERN RECORDER, Kentucky, also contributed to this report.

Lottie Moon goals met

First Church, Pontotoc, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering for Foreign Missions goal. The goal was set at \$25,000 and the church received \$27,063.

Mineral Wells Church, Northwest Association, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal of \$600. The total amount received was \$1,275. J. E. Williams is pastor.

Monticello Church, Lawrence County, exceeded its Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. The goal was set at \$10,500, which was a 10% increase in gifts received the previous year, and the church received \$11,662. Jimmy McGee is pastor.

Southern alumni name Patterson "most distinguished"

The Alumni Advisory Council of Southern Seminary's Alumni Association has selected Marjean Patterson as recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award for 1992. The Distinguished Alumni Award is the highest honor given by the Alumni Association and is among the most prestigious honors associated with Southern Seminary.



Patterson

The award will be presented to Miss Patterson during the Southern Baptist Convention in Indianapolis. This presentation will be made at the Southern Seminary reunion luncheon to be held at the Hilton in downtown Indianapolis on June 10.

Miss Patterson was born in Atlanta, Ga. She received a bachelor of arts degree from Carson-Newman College, master of religious education degree from Carver School of Missions, now a part of Southern Seminary, and a master of education degree from Mississippi College.

She began work for Mississippi Baptists in 1957, and became executive director of Mississippi's Woman's Missionary Union in 1971.

Linda Jenkins observes 35 years, FBC, Yazoo City

Linda Jenkins, church secretary/pastor's secretary, recently observed her 35th year on the staff of First Church, Yazoo City. She was called by First Church Feb. 15, 1957, during the ministry of Harold A. Shirley. She served four years with Shirley, almost a year with supply preachers and an interim pastor, and for the next 30 years was secretary to James F. (Jim) Yates. Miss Jenkins is active in her church, in the Yazoo County Association, and serves as a state-approved worker for the Church Administration Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She is a member of the National Association of Southern Baptist Secretaries. As a member of the Mississippi Baptist Secretaries Association, she has served in almost every office, including president. On Sunday morning, Feb. 16, Owen Cook, Jr., chairman of the personnel committee recognized Miss Jenkins for her long tenure. She was presented flowers and an engraved silver tray by the congregation.

Missionary news

Jerald and Elaine Perrill, missionaries to Thailand, are in the States (address: 1621 Plymouth Dr., Irving, Texas 75061). He was born in Ellsworth, Kan. She is the former Elaine Fortenberry of Monticello.

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Just for the Record



Calvary Church, Pascagoula, held homecoming and noteburning services on Jan. 26. On program were Byron Mathis, James Miller, Mrs. Joyce Mathis, Hubert Greer, and Buddy Mathis. Pictured are, left to right, George Berger, pastor; W. E. Youngblood; Frank Ellzey; Edith Youngblood; John Lewis; Byron Mathis, former pastor; and Sam Jones, deacon chairman.



Pictured are members of the Clarke College Student Wives' Organization for the 1991-92 school term. This group is composed of wives of ministerial students at CC who wish to participate. Objectives are to plan and work together in learning how to juggle classes, family, and church responsibilities. Many of these young women function alongside their husbands in music ministry positions as well as in other leadership positions. Standing, left to right, are: Sheila Harabison, Becky Myers, Toni Adams, Mrs. Jerri Dent, sponsor, Carlene Authement, Sheila Harvell and Debra Dean; seated, Melanie Fanguy, Cristal Woodard, and Madge Atkinson.

The church organ group of Jackson is presenting an organ workshop on March 7, at St. Paul's Catholic Church. The guest clinician is Benjamin Harlan, associate professor of music at New Orleans Seminary. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m. with the workshop beginning at 9 a.m.-1 p.m. A complimentary lunch will be served. Reservations must be made by March 6. For your reservation, call 981-9590 for the Jackson area or 1-800-783-3056. The Music Box of Jackson will have a music display available. St. Paul's Catholic Church is located on Lakeland Drive — 11 miles east of I-55.

Life Action Ministries will present "The Family: Holding On For Life" at Trinity Church, Fulton, March 25, at 7 p.m. Howard M. Peak is pastor.

The Southern Plainsmen of Florien, La., will be presented in a gospel concert March 7, at Cloverdale Church, Natchez, 7 p.m.

Life Action Ministries, Buchanan, Michigan, will present "America, You're too Young to Die" at Wheeler Grove Church in Alcorn Association on March 8 at 6:30 p.m. Kara Blackard is pastor.

State Boulevard Church, Meridian, is planning to have a homecoming celebration weekend for its 40th anniversary on May 16 and 17. The plans include a Saturday night celebration service of preaching and singing as well as Sunday morning Bible study and homecoming worship service. A dinner on the grounds will follow in the Family Life Center. Dennis R. Jones is pastor.

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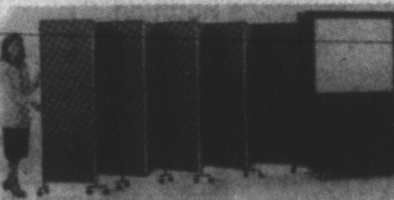
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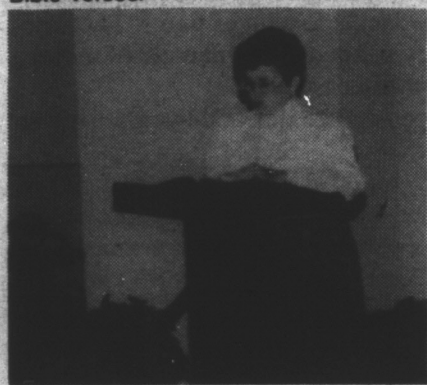
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A Bible reading was held on the steps of the State Capitol on Sunday afternoon, March 1. The Scripture was read from a tour Bible which is making stops all over the country in advance of a National Convocation on the Bible, April 21-23, in Nashville. A group of children from First Church, Jackson, are pictured reciting their favorite Bible verses.



Tour Bible stops in Jackson

Employees at the Baptist Building held a Bible reading from the tour Bible on Monday morning. Pictured is Ruby Russell, secretary, Office of Communication.

Staff changes

Perry Clifton (Cliff) Perkins has been called as interim pastor of First Church, Yazoo City. He served as pastor at First Church, Greenwood, until 1975. He was employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as director of Church-Minister Relations and Annuity from 1975 until his retirement in December 1986.

The Yazoo City Church has elected a pastor search committee to seek a replacement for James F. (Jim) Yates who retired in December 1991 after serving more than 30 years as the church's pastor.

First Church, Calhoun City, has called Charles Keith May as minister of youth and education effective Feb.

9. A native of Clinton, he received his education at Mississippi College and Southwestern Seminary. Keith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles May of Clinton. Anthony Kay is pastor of First Church.

May

University Church, Hattiesburg, will begin a new era of ministry on March 1 with the arrival of its new pastor, Richard L. Allison. He goes to Hattiesburg from Georgetown, Ky., where he was pastor of Georgetown Church. A native of Elizabethtown, Ky., he holds a bachelor of arts degree from Georgetown College; master of divinity from Southern Seminary; and doctor of ministry from Lexington Seminary. He has led his church in ministries to Vietnamese "boat people" and Cambodian refugees, and has led his church in expanding its cooperation with other churches in the community. A special concern is student ministry. The church he most recently pastored is the "college church" for Georgetown College. Allison has served as president of the Tennessee Baptist Pastors' Conference and on the executive boards of both the Tennessee and Kentucky conventions. He has been a trustee of Carson-Newman College. At Georgetown College he has been an adjunct professor.

Allison

Revival dates

Trinity Church, Fulton: March 8-12; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:50 p.m.; Mon-Thurs., 7 p.m.; Robert Hamblin, Tupelo, evangelist; special music by Trinity Church choir; Howard M. Peak, pastor.

Glendale Church, Leland: March 8-11; Ed McDaniel, Trace Ridge Church, Ridgeland, evangelist; Mark Manning, Eastwood Church, Indianola, music; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 nightly; Donald I. Pouns, pastor.

Concord Church (Rankin): March 13-15; Tom Fox, Bethlehem Church, Forkville, evangelist; Miss Susan Horton, Sebastopol Church,

Sebastopol, music; services, Fri., and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:45 p.m.; LaVerne Summerlin, pastor.

Pleasant Ridge Church, Sturgis: March 8-11; J. B. Costilow, Liberty Church, Newton, evangelist; Hugh Moreland, Trinity Church, West Point, music; Sunday, 6 p.m.; Mon-Wed., 7 p.m.; Larry Haggard, pastor.

County Line Church (Neshoba): March 13-15; Eddie Ruddick, professor of Old Testament at Clarke College, evangelist; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Keith Fulton, pastor.

Gulf Coast adds counselor to staff

Beginning March 1, Gulf Coast Association is offering a Christian counseling ministry under direction of Ed Dowdy. Dowdy will serve as a part-time member of the association staff.

He is a graduate of Carson-Neman College and New Orleans Seminary and holds advanced degrees in pastoral counseling, with a background of 32 years experience in the field.

He has served as chaplain at Mississippi Baptist Hospital, Jackson, and Veterans Administration hospitals in Florida, Virginia, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. He is presently serving on the staff of the V.A. Hospital in Biloxi and Gulfport.

Mr. and Mrs. Dowdy are natives of Florida, and are members of FBC, Gulfport, where Mrs. Dowdy, the former Betty Jo Buie, serves on the church staff as computer specialist and office manager.

The counseling service will be offered to individuals and families as requested. The fees will be nominal and vary in accordance with the person's ability to pay.

WHITE HOUSE

From page 3

the Ways and Means Committee Feb. 12.

The reporting requirement, included in the president's recently introduced fiscal 1993 budget, would force churches, religious organizations, and other charitable groups to report to the IRS the name, address, Taxpayer Identification Number, amount given and the circumstances under which contributions were made on every person who gave more than \$500 during the calendar year. The Taxpayer Identification Number usually is the person's Social Security number.

Evangelical and religious liberty groups in particular protested requiring churches to be participants in the government's tax-enforcement process and burdening many churches with unnecessary work.

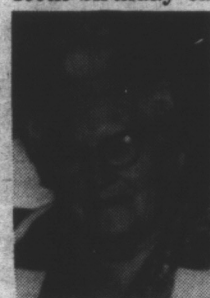
Strode is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Thursday, March 5, 1992

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the news

Mrs. Ida Bagwell Arnett, wife of the late George E. Arnett, celebrated her 100th birthday on March 2. She has been a life-long resident of Winston County. She was baptized at Sulfur Springs Church in 1916, and has been a charter member of the WMU at Poplar Flat Church in Louisville. Mrs. Arnett is the mother of 11 children, 24 grandchildren, 51 great grandchildren, and 10 great great grandchildren.



Mrs. Arnett

Chris Cochran, Hickory, shares his Praxis experiences with students and faculty during a recent chapel service at New Orleans Seminary. "It helped me mold my beliefs and philosophies about building a church," Cochran said about the 10-week, national church-planting project through the Home Mission Board.



Cochran

Cochran, a student in the Master of Divinity program at the seminary, was assigned to plant a church in Snellville, Ga. (Photo by Kevin Devine)

William Carey College will present pianist Philip Fortenberry, a native of Columbia, in concert, March 12, 8 p.m., in Smith Auditorium of Thomas Fine Arts Center on the Hattiesburg campus. Fortenberry attended William Carey College as a piano performance major and earned the bachelor of music degree. While in college he was organist for Main Street Church, Hattiesburg. Admission for the concert is \$4 for students and \$8 for others.

Talk not of wasted affection, affection never was wasted; If it enrich not the heart of another, its waters, returning back to their springs, like the rain, shall fill them full of refreshment. — Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



In the spring of 1979, two years after retiring as president of Clarke College, W. L. Compere entered a unique retirement ministry — that of a Scripture dramatist. He memorized the entire Gospel of Mark and began giving dramatic presentations of this fast moving and dynamic gospel.

His wife works as his team mate, giving introductions and narrations for many of the presentations. Mr. and Mrs. Compere are now into their fifth year of letting the entire income from their presentation go to missions. The love offerings have helped several churches in western New York State and Michigan with their building programs.

Compere, pictured, gave a dramatic presentation during chapel services at Clarke College Jan. 22.

Homecomings

Holly Springs Church, Brookhaven: March 15; lunch will be served, followed by a short business meeting and gospel singing; Frank Leggett, speaker; Eric Malone, music; Glenn E. McInnis, pastor; all proceeds go the upkeep of the cemetery; for a plot in the new part of the cemetery, contact Mike Knight, Route 8, Box 281, Brookhaven, MS 39601.

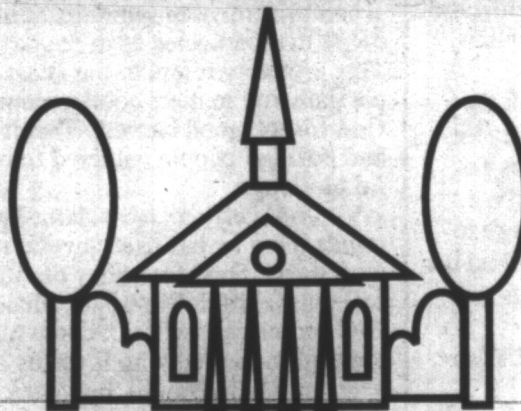
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LIFE AND WORK

Forgiving others



By Lola M. Autry
Matthew 18:21-35

Bill Denton in an article in *Pulpit Helps* told of a store's check cashing policy: "To err is human, to forgive, \$10." Many people think of forgiveness in that way—"I'll forgive you, but you're going to have to pay for what you did." That's not true forgiveness. The true kind comes only when we take upon ourselves the pain caused to us, expecting nothing from the one who wronged us.

A question about forgiveness (vv. 21-22). We do not know what prompted Peter's question. We do know it is one we also face. How often must we forgive the same person? Peter, like us, seemed willing to forgive a few times, but when forgiveness became an habitual thing with the same person Peter questioned, How long must I keep doing this? The answer from Jesus—on and on and on. Putting a limit on forgiveness, according to Jesus, is not permissible.

Forgiven an overwhelming debt (vv. 23-24, 26-27). Jesus gives us an example of his kind of forgiveness. A man owing an enormous debt was brought before the king to whom he owed the debt. The man could not pay. He begged for mercy. The king forgave him his debt—not partially—not with string attached—but totally. That's the way God deals with our sin debt when we approach him for mercy and forgiveness. But then, what do we do for others?

Failing to forgive a small debt (v. 28). How ready are we to forgive those who have wronged us? The forgiven servant did not follow in the king's footsteps. He refused to forgive the debt of a man who owed him a small amount. Is it easier for us to forgive a "big" something than a "little" one? Sometimes, but why? Is it because we feel good about ourselves, thinking what a great good we've done by extending our forgiveness for that big transgression? Is that true forgiveness? If God only forgave our "big" sins what would become of us because of our "little" ones? God never runs out of forgiveness. Do we?

Following the Master's example (vv. 32-33). Forgiveness has been a theme in the Bible from the beginning. Genesis 50:17 speaks of the brothers of Joseph seeking his forgiveness and it was given. Stephen, at his stoning, prayed "Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60). He had followed the Master's example. Jesus, on the cross prayed, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34a). In our text the forgiven man should have followed his king's example. He did not and we learn:

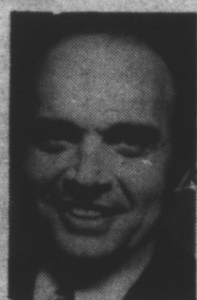
The consequences of an unforgiving spirit (vv. 34-35). The king was very angry with the man. He could hardly believe what he had heard. He confronted the man with his sin of unforgiveness. Then he passed judgment. So, our Lord confronts us with our unforgiveness. So, he passes judgment. What is that judgment? Simply put, if we don't forgive others their wrongs against us, neither will our Lord forgive our wrongs against him. Verse 35 is very explicit. Jesus is even more so in Matthew 6:14 and 15.

Forgiveness is not only our gift to others. It is a gift to ourselves. When we forgive we remove from our lives bitterness and hatred and "holding things" against others because God's kind of love takes over. Someone said, "We pardon in the degree that we love." Do we love enough to forgive any transgression against us? God does. He sends his only begotten son to take upon himself all the wrongs we do against him by dying for our sins on the cross.

Autry lives in Hickory Flat, and is a member of Pine Grove Church, Benton County.

BIBLE BOOK

God's love, Israel's deceit



By Charles Nestor
Hosea 11:1-9; 12:7-11

In Chapter 11 Hosea speaks in more positive terms. He still keeps the sin of Israel and their punishment in the forefront, but he begins to focus on the redeeming love of God. We will see him emphasizing the consequences of such love.

I. God's love for his rebellious people (11:1-4). In a way God's love for Israel began in his choosing and caring for Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. His love continued in bringing them out of Egypt and making a covenant with them. God wants them to grow in their relationship to him. At the same time, they have been like a "prodigal son" to his father. Israel has turned from God to sacrifice and worship of Baal. However, God does not leave them. He continued to show his love to them. God had taught them how to walk, to trust, and to obey him. They had seen the miracles of the Red Sea and Mount Sinai. Rebellion clouded their vision of God's blessing, but he continued to love them. God repeated his acts of kindness so as to weave and bind Israel's heart to his.

The Lord does the same for us. Like Israel, we disappoint him and go our own way, but he loves us and makes every effort to lead us in a daily walk of faith. By his love we are blessed with spiritual nourishment, so we have the power to minister in a world which is not always favorable to his message.

II. Israel's rejection of God's love (11:5-7). Israel persists in rejecting God's love. There is always a price to pay when we ignore the will of God. Hosea tells them that they will again experience bondage, but this time it will be from Assyria. Their land would be captured because they had followed their own wisdom and greed rather than the love of God. Rejection of God's love will eventually bring judgment. God does not ignore our rebellion and disobedience.

III. God's promise of restoration (11:8-9). Israel will become the captive of Assyria, but God promises to restore them. His love will find a way to transform them from rebellion to obedience. Hosea states that God in his holiness will find a way to redeem them. Their sin demanded punishment, but his love and grace would draw them back in repentance to trust and obey him. God's purpose will be fulfilled in their lives because he will live in their midst as Redeemer. The promise is also true today. God's love and grace draws us back to repent and confess our sins, and he is present in the Holy Spirit to empower us for life.

IV. God's judgment on dishonesty (12:7-9). The people of Hosea's day were immersed in corruption. It was evident in their goals. Instead of having a desire to lead other nations to God, they were only concerned about becoming wealthy merchants by any means it could be accomplished. Such action was oppressing the poor, and God would not tolerate their mistreatment of people. In verse 9, God seems to say his judgment will be that he will continue to work with them until he has accomplished his purpose. His accomplishment is symbolized in the term "make them to dwell in tabernacles as in the day of the solemn feast."

This probably refers to the Feast of Tabernacles. The people gathered in their booths around the Temple to praise God for the good harvest. This is a picture of a restored and purified people gathered to praise God for his bountiful blessings.

V. God's efforts to reclaim Israel (12:10-11). God reminds them he has used several means to communicate with them. Therefore, they do not have any excuse for being unfaithful. Sin is sin, whatever form it takes; and God promises it will not come to a good end. We are to be grateful for a God who loves us in spite of our sin. Sin always brings judgment, but thank God his grace is greater than our sin. God's desire is to redeem the world from sin, but we must desire and accept his forgiveness for redemption to be a reality. We do not have an excuse because God has used every means to communicate his love. All we need to do is accept him upon his promise. He will not fail us because he is faithful and true.

Nestor is pastor, First Church, Bruce.

UNIFORM

Entering God's kingdom



By Bobby Williamson
Mark 2:23-3:6

A missionary in New Guinea returned after several years of service. His friend said to him, "Jones, tell me what you found at your station in New Guinea?"

"Found! I found something that looked more hopeless than if I had been sent into the jungle to a lot of tigers. Those people were so degraded they seemed utterly devoid of moral sense. They were worse than beasts."

"What did you do for people like that? Did you preach to them?"

"Preach? No! I lived. When I saw a baby crying, I picked it up and comforted it. When I saw a man with a broken leg, I mended it. When I saw people in distress, I took them in. Those very same people would ask, 'What are you doing this for?' Then I had my chance and I preached the gospel."

"Did you succeed?"

"When I left, I left a church!"

Our lesson this week teaches us that we as believers are to follow Jesus' example of affirming the priority of the people.

The pharisees complained to Jesus that his disciples were gathering grain on the Sabbath. Evidently there had been a shortage of provisions for the disciples, for Jesus defends their plucking the corn ears and eating them on the plea of necessity. We might learn from this to wait before passing judgement until we know all of the details.

Just as the pharisees hastily judged the disciples, we too are guilty of acting without thought or knowledge in judging others. We should be clearly warned of judging others hastily.

In our text Jesus uses an incident from David's life to defend his disciples. David, a man after God's own heart, when suffering in God's cause and straitened for provisions, obtained that which was legal only for the priest to touch.

We should understand here that the act itself was permitted (Deut. 23:25), but being "servile work," which was prohibited on the Sabbath, it was regarded sinful. Once again though, as throughout his ministry, Jesus shows the priority of people over any religious system.

Here Jesus declares that the Sabbath was created for people's benefit, and that he was Lord of the Sabbath. The very fact that Christ proclaimed himself Lord of the Sabbath should motivate each of us to use the Lord's day in ways that will honor Christ.

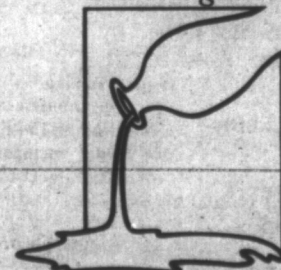
With the pharisees watching to see what he would do, Jesus healed a man's withered hand on the Sabbath. Jesus was certainly saying that this man had priority over a religious system. The healing also points out the worth and value of all persons. Jesus did not procrastinate. He moved quickly to help this man in need. We too should see all people as having worth, and should try to help them when in need.

The pharisees' and the herodians' hostile reaction to Jesus' act of healing is a reminder to each of us that personal biases easily cause us to lose sight of the priority of people.

Let's each today decide on an action we will take this week to affirm the priority of people, and let us seek to serve those in need.

Williamson is pastor, Park Place Church, Brandon.

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Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Dec. 31, 1991

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Bulgarians rejoice over land gift

Bulgarian Baptists are rejoicing these days over a great gift. The city council has given them a choice piece of property in the capital city of Sofia. They, in turn, have developed a courageous plan which includes a school, a church, and a Bible school. In the picture, two Bulgarian leaders, Baptist Union President Theo Angelow (right) and Union General Secretary Boshidar Igoff (center) proudly show the first architects' design for the new complex to Baptist World Alliance President Knud Wumpelmann. (EBPS photo by Stanley Crabb)

Committee OKs lifting fetal-tissue moratorium

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Senate committee has approved legislation lifting a White House-supported ban on federal funding of transplantation research using fetal tissue from induced abortions.

The Labor and Human Resources Committee, chaired by Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., voted, 13-4, Feb. 5 in favor of a National Institutes of Health reauthorization bill permitting federal funding of experimental fetal-tissue transplantation and establishing government guidelines for such research.

The bill also prevents the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services from blocking funding for human sexuality surveys unless an advisory board agrees. In July, HHS Secretary Louis Sullivan canceled a graphic, \$18 million sexuality survey of junior- and senior-high students.

The bill (H.R. 2507) passed the House of Representatives in July.

President George Bush has threatened to veto legislation lifting the ban.

"We are distressed that the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee has taken this action," said

James A. Smith, Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission director of government relations.

"There is an enormous distortion of the truth concerning this issue. Sen. Kennedy and Rep. Waxman would have Americans believe that fetal tissue will definitely cure a host of diseases. Furthermore, they suggest the federal government cannot or will not take action to address these diseases. This is simply false.

"We commend Sen. Hatch for demonstrating that pro-lifers do care about people who suffer by offering an amendment to encourage ethical research using fetal tissue and the development of cell lines," Smith said.

"The fact that Sen. Kennedy and the other members who are in favor of lifting the moratorium would reject this compromise clearly shows that they have no regard for the ethical dilemma created by some fetal-tissue research or for the value and sanctity of human life."

Messengers to the 1991 meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention approved a resolution on the sanctity of human life supporting the moratorium.

Professor offers suggestions on reaching baby boomers

NEW ORLEANS (BP) — To reach baby boomers, churches will have to wake up to boomers' specific needs, Chuck Kelley told participants in a recent "Reaching Baby Boomers" conference at New Orleans Seminary.

The seminary's associate professor of evangelism said ministers cannot expect boomers to attend church because of loyalty to their parents' religion, the nature of the denomination, a lack of anything to do, proximity, or even the fact that it is Sunday.

Most boomers have different standards than their parents, Kelley said. Many would rather give money than their time because their time is precious to them. They look for quality in a worship service to justify making time to go. Whereas many boomer parents were committed to their religion "through thick and thin," boomers tend to evaluate the worth of the worship experience in deciding whether to be faithful.

Born between 1946 and 1964, boomers have enjoyed experience-oriented entertainment not related to the socio-economics of their families, mainly because of televisions, theme parks, and other easily accessible forms of amusement.

Brought up on Christmas lists and family vacations with parents who "pour out everything" on their kids, boomers generally have great expectations for fulfillment in life. But, Kelley said, experts have predicted they will be the first generation who will have less than their parents at death.

Many boomers also suffer from dysfunctional family systems brought on by divorces, child abuse, and other problems. An estimated 50% of their

children will live with a single parent by the time they graduate from high school.

The rapid changes in society during the boomer era have caused them to be non-committed to personal relationships, churches, or political parties, Kelley continued. "Baby boomers are frustrated with their options," he said, "and their expectations are not being met."

Also, boomers are looking for marriage helps, such as workshops on divorce recovery, keeping marriages together, money management, or finding joy in the midst of stress.

They prefer a transcendent form of worship, with dynamic preaching, dynamic music, and dynamic people. "Boomers enjoy upbeat music," Kelley said, "and after listening to pros all week (on radio and TV), they expect the best."

Churches also need to provide answers to their questions, especially in areas where they are hurting.

"Boomers like to experience things," Kelley said. "Don't just talk about missions; offer them mission trips... or other mission projects they can get involved in."

Furthermore, because many must dress up all week for their jobs, some may be looking for a church that allows informality in attire.

However, a church's first step to reach boomers is to educate its leaders to boomer needs through workshops and conferences. Second, a personal, church, and community assessment should be done, asking questions about gifts, abilities, God's calling, and likes and dislikes.

Third, churches should offer alter-

natives such as a "come as you are" event or a Saturday evening service in addition to the church's normal activities.

But there are dangers which should be avoided as churches move to reach boomers. First, "Don't let your church be seduced into thinking baby boomers are the end of the church's trouble. Baby boomers are people. As a group, they're exciting, young, optimistic, but they have lots of problems as well," Kelley said.

Second, beware of the pace of acceleration; moving too fast could hurt some people, he said.

Third, churches may need to deal with new questions such as leadership roles for divorced people, marital problems, drug abuse, or wife or child abuse.

Last, because boomers "don't like to hear doctrine," ministers may tend to say what they think boomers want to hear rather than offering biblical instruction.

The boomer generation makes population's line of history look "like a python that swallowed a pig," Kelley said, because they far outnumber their neighboring generations. As a result, "they've been pitched to commercially all their lives and are used to being the center of attention."

"Baby boomers are and will be the most educated generation in history," Kelley said, even though only 25% have graduated from college. "Because of a higher degree of education, there is a higher tolerance for the beliefs, lifestyles, and cultures of others." However, if baby boomers are to be reached today, he said, churches must be willing to meet their needs.

Bread for the World asks Southern Baptists to join funding campaign

By Tom Strobe

WASHINGTON (BP) — Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group dealing with hunger issues, is asking Southern Baptists to help influence Congress to increase funding for three government programs aimed at needy children.

The Washington-based organization is encouraging Southern Baptists and other religious groups to participate in an "Every Fifth Child" Offering of Letters campaign to enlarge budget allocations for Head Start, the Job Corps, and the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC).

In an offering of letters, a church invites its members to write letters to

their senators and representative urging support for selected programs. Some churches ask their members to write the letters Sunday and place them in the offering plate as a gift of citizenship before being mailed, according to Bread for the World.

One of five children in the United States is either hungry or at risk of hunger, said David Beckmann, president of Bread for the World.

"But now we have a once-in-a-generation opportunity to shift resources that have been lavished on the Cold War into programs that meet basic human needs," Beckmann said.

For information or to order an offering of letters kit, individuals or

churches may write Bread for the World, Attention: Katherine Smith, 802 Rhode Island Ave., NE, Washington, DC 20018, or call (202) 269-0200. Include \$8 when ordering a kit.

Strobe is director, media & news information, Washington office, CLC.

Haitian refugees look to churches for help

By Barbara Denman

MIAMI (BP) — While the federal government is shipping back thousands of Haitian immigrants to their homeland, many who have been fed and given shelter by Baptists in South Florida have been granted permission to enter the United States.

"The church in this community is here to help serve others," said pastor Wilner Maxy, pastor of the Emmanuel Haitian Church in Miami. "We help everyone in need. We feel the church is the right place to get physical food and spiritual food."

Scores of the newest Haitian

refugees are joining fellow countrymen in Miami's Little Haiti where they are receiving food supplemented by Florida Baptists' hunger funds and are sleeping in apartments owned by church members. Others are finding refuge in Homestead, Fort Pierce, Orlando, and Sarasota.

Miami's pastoral leadership is aware the newest refugees will face many problems, including high unemployment, language barriers, and crowded living conditions, Maxy noted. His church continues to help families who have been in Miami for

at least five years.

"But if they come here they are better off than in Haiti," Maxy said. "They can find a church. They can find a friend."

Florida Baptists historically have responded when emigrants flooded their shores. In the past, Cubans, Haitians, and Nicaraguans received help after immigrating to Florida. Currently, state convention officials are monitoring the Haitian influx to determine other ways the churches can supplement what is being done by government and other religious

groups.

Estimates indicate as many as 3,000 Haitians will be able to qualify as political refugees, according to Mike Pszyk of Church World Services. About 1,000 already have entered the States on a 90-day parole basis. To remain, the refugees must request political asylum within 90 days, a time-consuming and expensive process. Failure to do so means immediate deportation.

Denman is PR director, Florida Baptist Convention.

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